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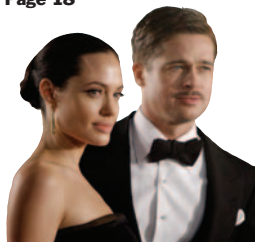
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2014

# OPENING WEEKEND

★ ★ ★ ★

## Russian columns enter Ukraine

Troops, equipment cross border; key town said to be captured

By DALTON BENNETT  
AND RAF CASERT  
*The Associated Press*

NOVOAZOVSK, Ukraine — Two columns of tanks and military vehicles rolled into southeastern Ukraine from Russia on Thursday after Grad missiles were fired at a border post and Ukraine's overmatched

border guards fled, a top Ukrainian official said.

Echoing the comments by Ukrainian Col. Andriy Lysenko, a senior NATO official said at least 1,000 Russian troops have poured into Ukraine with sophisticated equipment, leaving no doubt that the Russian military had invaded southeastern Ukraine.

"The hand from behind is becoming more and more overt now," Brig. Gen. Nico Tak said at NATO's military headquarters, adding that Russia's ultimate aim was to stave off defeat for the separatists and turn eastern Ukraine into a "frozen conflict" that would destabilize the country indefinitely.

SEE UKRAINE ON PAGE 8



Ukrainian forces guard a checkpoint in Mariupol, Ukraine, on Thursday as concerns grew about the opening of a new front in the conflict.

SERGEI GRIFFS/AP

## A CENTURY OF HEAVY METAL

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I. While there were a number of technological advances made during the war, few affected modern warfare more than the tank.

Stars and Stripes looks at its evolution in photos on [Page 13](#) and in a multimedia presentation at [stripes.com/go/tanks](http://stripes.com/go/tanks).



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's a burden in a group of 10 or 20 people to suggest eating dog, like making a sexual joke. It's not easy to talk about eating dog when there are a lot of people."

— Moon Jaesuk, who enjoyed eating dog meat before moving to Seoul, South Korea, on changing attitudes about the traditional Korean delicacy

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## TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Appeal for US soldier convicted in '03 grenade attack in Kuwait
2. Army general forced out, forfeits star for mishandling sex assault claim
3. Coast Guard team fires shot at Iranian dhow in Persian Gulf
4. Islamic State could force some strange alliances
5. Authorities comb Va. mountain area for missing pilot after Guard F-15 crash

## COMING SOON

Science  
& Medicine

Sea is vital to life on land



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## MILITARY

# UN urges Afghan election result delay

By JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes

The United Nations has asked Afghan President Hamid Karzai to once again delay the inauguration of a new president as an audit of disputed ballots goes on amid posturing by the candidates and sometimes physical fighting among their supporters.

On Thursday, the U.N.'s representative in Afghanistan, Jan Kubis, briefed Karzai on the status of the review, which the U.N. is overseeing after one of the candidates, Abdullah Abdullah, alleged massive fraud was committed on behalf of his opponent, Ashraf Ghani.

Karzai and Western officials had been adamant about having the audit completed and a new president named in time for the winner to attend a crucial NATO summit next week, when leaders will decide on international commitments of troops and funds for Afghanistan after the end of the year. But Kubis told Karzai he expects the process won't be completed any sooner than about Sept. 10.

Kubis said that "steady progress" was being made "with strict impartiality, professionalism and



STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

**Election observers in Kabul examine ballots on Aug. 10 from Afghanistan's June 14 presidential runoff as part of a massive audit. The review has been slowed by disagreement between the candidates and insufficient numbers of observers.**

with even greater vigilance," a news release said. Kubis cautioned that a thorough review would take time.

Thursday's meeting came a day after Abdullah pulled his support from the audit, saying it was not capable of finding the

fraud he says occurred. The U.N. then asked Ghani's observers to recuse themselves from the process as well.

On Thursday, Abdullah spokesman Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Rahimi told Stars and Stripes that the delay does not affect the

campaign's boycott. But he said Abdullah was meeting personally with Ghani and that representatives had met with the U.N. mission earlier in the day.

"If they take into account our reservations, then we are willing to rejoin the process," he said. "But we will not rejoin the process if it just legitimizes fraud."

The delays, boycotts and threats have thrown doubt on the future of the international presence in Afghanistan.

American military officials are waiting for a new president to sign a deal that would lay out the terms for keeping nearly 10,000 U.S. troops in the country past the end of the year. Foreign donors who provide the billions of dollars upon which the Afghan government depends have said that a peaceful transfer of power is a prerequisite for further aid.

It is not known who will represent Afghanistan at the Sept. 4-5 summit, but NATO officials say they have extended an invitation and that it is up to the Afghan government to decide whom they will send. Karzai's spokesman has said the current president will not attend.

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## US frees 2 Yemenis from military prison in Afghanistan

By ADAM GOLDMAN  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One of the two Yemenis freed from a U.S. military prison in Afghanistan and repatriated Tuesday had been diagnosed with leukemia, a U.S. military official said.

It's not clear when the U.S. learned that Amin al-Bakri was sick and whether that played a role in his release from the detention facility near Bagram air base.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because detainee medical histories are confidential, did not know how advanced al-Bakri's disease was nor his prognosis.

Al-Bakri, 46, was released along with fellow national Fadi al-Maqaleh, 28. The two men had fought for years in U.S. courts to secure their freedom and earlier this month had petitioned the U.S.

Supreme Court.

The two had been held without charge for more than a decade.

Bakri, a gem salesman, was detained in Thailand in 2002 at the behest of the CIA as he was headed to the airport to return to Yemen after a five-day business trip. Maqaleh left Yemen in 2004 while still in high school. He was picked up and held in Iraq before being moved to Afghanistan.

Their release could have a bearing on whether dozens of other Yemenis held at the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, also are sent home. Of the 86 Yemenis held at Guantanamo, 58 have been cleared for release by an interagency task force after President Barack Obama assumed office. Obama last year lifted his self-imposed ban on transferring Yemenis home, but U.S. officials continue to worry that the country is too unstable to

successfully integrate returning detainees.

If Yemen demonstrates it can successfully handle the return of al-Bakri and al-Maqaleh, it could provide a persuasive argument to begin releasing Yemenis from Guantanamo.

Obama has said he remains committed to closing the prison at Guantanamo where 149 detainees are held.

Tina Foster, a lawyer for al-Bakri and al-Maqaleh, said the men were being held in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital. She said it was unclear whether they would be prosecuted or released under some kind of supervision.

"Nobody told us what the plan is," she said.

A Yemeni official said the men were being held in a secure facility while being processed. The official added that al-Bakri was in "bad shape" physically.

The Pentagon is moving swiftly to empty the prison in Afghanistan as the U.S. and its allies draw down combat forces in Afghanistan by the end of this year. Obama has authorized a small training and counterterrorism force to stay in the country until 2016.

Two U.S. military officials said the number of detainees held in Bagram has now fallen below 30, down from more than 50 in December. One of the officials said as of last week there were 27 detainees left at the prison known as the Parwan Detention Facility.

All of the detainees are non-Afghans, most of whom were captured by U.S. forces on the Afghan battlefield. The U.S. turned over the bulk of its prison facilities, and all Afghan nationals it was holding in them, to the Afghan government in March 2013.

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## MILITARY

# German general takes over spot at USAREUR

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — U.S. Army Europe formally welcomed German Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal as its new chief of staff Thursday, beginning what one German official said would likely be the first of many such exchanges between the U.S. and German armies.

Since USAREUR was established in World War II, a foreign officer has never served as chief of staff of the three-star command, headed since late 2012 by U.S. Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr.

Laubenthal's role in the organization will be much more than symbolic, Campbell said, though U.S. law precludes his successor from seeing some classified information that American officers in the same position would be able to access.

As the U.S. and NATO allies draw down from Afghanistan, military leaders have emphasized the need to continue to work together to maintain the interoperability the various forces have gained over more than a decade of war.

"As we all know, actions speak louder" than words," Campbell said, "and this innovation carries a very strong message regarding our seriousness about a multinational team."

One U.S. official said it's estimated that Laubenthal will be able to carry out about 90 percent of the tasks typically performed by a USAREUR chief of staff, who is directly responsible for organizing, directing and supporting roughly 30 senior leaders who make up the command's staff.

While Laubenthal's assignment is a first for the German military and USAREUR, Campbell played down its novelty.

The U.S. has been at war alongside Germany and other NATO and partner nations for 13 years, he said, "so having a multinational general on our staff is not really something new, because they've seen it in theater, they've seen it in combat."

"In fact, I had a Canadian deputy commanding general at III Corps and Fort Hood," Campbell said. "And we have other multinational officers in service in the United States and in U.S. Army Pacific."

To those who might question



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

German Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal, U.S. Army Europe's new chief of staff, speaks to members of the media after being formally welcomed as the command's first non-American chief of staff.

the move, Campbell said: "I would step back and take a look at what we've been doing in combat for the last 13 years. We don't fight it alone, we don't go alone."

American officials provided a fact sheet addressing some concerns about a foreign officer in such a high-level position in the U.S. Army, among them:

■ Laubenthal won't have disciplinary authority over U.S. personnel.

■ He will not be able to represent the command outside of the command on his own.

■ He won't command U.S. forces.

■ He won't have access to U.S. law enforcement information, diplomatic communications, in-

formation related to U.S. theater security objectives and a range of other information.

■ He will have access to classified information that has been cleared for disclosure.

"What we saw today is really a kickoff," German Lt. Gen. Jörg Vollmer said after a ceremony at Clay Kaserne welcoming Laubenthal.

Vollmer, the deputy inspector of the German army, said that the Germans are open to assigning an American officer to a similar position within the German army.

Campbell said he first approached the German army's chief of staff about putting a German general on the USAREUR staff in January 2013, soon after

he took command and well before revelations of U.S. spying on Germans came to light.

Campbell said he wants to "continue to look for ways that we can grow from this position and use it to leap to other positions at junior grades."

Laubenthal, who most recently served as a German tank brigade commander and chief of staff for NATO's Regional Command North in Afghanistan, said he's a "true believer in the idea of organizing and training" as you would deploy in a military campaign.

"It's really, really important to work with other nations together as close as you can and even before an operation starts," he said.

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## US, South Korea quietly wrap up large-scale exercise

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The biggest U.S.-South Korea war games ended Thursday as they began, with little fanfare, in what may have been an attempt by the allies to avoid provoking North Korea.

Approximately 50,000 South Korean troops and 30,000 U.S. troops — about 3,000 of whom were brought in from outside the peninsula — took part in this year's Ulchi Freedom Guardian, a computer-simulation exercise described by the U.S. as "routine and defense-oriented" and based on "realistic scenarios" to ensure "we are fully prepared to defend the Republic of Korea should the need arise."

It was scheduled to end Friday. A U.S. Forces Korea statement did not say why it wrapped up early.

The computer simulations took place across the peninsula, and, according to the statement, allowed the two militaries to evaluate and exercise capabilities ranging from military intel-

**'If the U.S. and South Korea promote UFG, it could be an excuse for North Korea to increase tensions.'**

Yang Uk

Korea Defense and Security Forum

ligence, logistics and joint air procedures to plans and systems including Combined Space Operations.

U.S.-South Korea exercises are a particularly sensitive subject with nuclear-armed North Korea, which regularly condemns them as preparations for an invasion. It warned the United Nations earlier this week that it would respond more strongly to the "gangster-like war exercises," though it did not offer details, according to The Associated Press, but it remained relatively peaceful during the drills.

Despite the large scale of the two-week Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, U.S. and South Korean defense officials have offered few details, aside from inviting the media to a field training exercise for combat medics at Camp Humphreys.

Official acknowledgment of UFG came only late on the afternoon of Aug. 18, the day it began. USFK said it publicly announced the start after notifying North Korea of the drill that afternoon. The command also said it does not discuss exercise scenarios as a matter of policy. South Korean defense officials also would not discuss specifics about the exercise.

Yang Uk, a senior research fellow at the Korea Defense and Security Forum, said Washington and Seoul tried to avoid drawing media attention to UFG as a conciliatory gesture toward the North.

"If the U.S. and South Korea promote UFG, it could be an excuse for North Korea to increase tensions," he said.

Department of Defense spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby on

Tuesday said U.S. commitment to the security of the peninsula remains steadfast.

"Our exercises will continue, and we continue to call in (sic) the North to meet its international obligations," he said during a press briefing in Washington.

Kim Jin Moo, a senior researcher at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, said Washington and Seoul's lack of openness about UFG isn't unusual, and that Pyongyang was moderating its typical bluster in hopes of sending a delegation to next month's Asian Games in Incheon.

"North Korea seems to be taking a wait-and-see approach to find out what our attitude is" about its attendance at the Games, he said.

The North wants to send a 273-member delegation to attend the Games, and the two countries are negotiating issues including whether Seoul would pay for the cost and what route the group would travel, according to South Korea's Yonhap News.

The exercise came at a sensitive time for the two allies, which are in the midst of negotiations about whether to delay plans for a transfer of wartime control of al-

lied forces to Seoul. If a war broke out today, the top U.S. commander on the peninsula would lead those forces, though operational control, commonly referred to as OPCON, is scheduled to transfer to South Korea in December 2015.

Seoul has asked for the transfer previously delayed from 2007 to 2012 over concerns about the South's readiness — to be postponed again because of concerns about North Korea provocations. A decision is expected later this year, with many experts predicting the two countries will agree to a delay of several years.

In a possible indication that OPCON will be postponed again, the U.S. commander, Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, was leading this year's UFG. Before the last delay, which came in 2010 after the North torpedoed a South Korean warship earlier that year, the South had led the two previous UFGs as a test of its ability to lead troops after the transfer.

The last joint exercise led by South Korea was in the annual spring Key Resolve drill in 2013, according to USFK.

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## MILITARY

# AFRICOM puts off training plan for Libyan troops

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command's plan to train Libyan military forces is on hold given escalating clashes among rival militias that the country's U.N. ambassador warned Wednesday could plunge the country into civil war.

The training, initially scheduled for the summer, was pushed back and now will not happen before next year.

"We are still analyzing the new conditions and our capabilities in order to accurately assess our way ahead," said Tom Saunders, an AFRICOM spokesman. "We had planned to begin training by the end of this year, but that timeline will probably shift to next year."

The violence in Libya has heightened concerns in the international community that it could spread.

In the wake of heavy fighting that saw the international airport in the capital, Tripoli, fall to a coalition of Islamist militias last week, French President Francois Hollande on Thursday called for "exceptional" international support for Libya, warning that "terrorism will spread" across the region if nothing is done.

His comments echoed those of the outgoing U.N. special representative to Libya, Tarek Mitri, before the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday.

"The threat from the spread of terrorist groups has become real," Mitri said. "At present, the chaotic security situation and the very limited capacity of the government to counter this threat may well have created a fertile ground for a mounting danger in Libya and beyond."

On Wednesday, the Security Council adopted a resolution tightening an arms embargo and calling for an immediate cease-fire. In remarks to the council, Libyan U.N. Ambassador Ibrahim Dababshi said the situation in Libya "might unravel into a full-blown civil war if we're not very careful and wise in our actions."

Clashes between rival militias have steadily intensified in recent months across Libya, where order has never been fully restored since a NATO bombing campaign three years ago that helped oust former strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Last month, the U.S. military helped evacuate U.S. personnel at the American embassy in Tripoli.

"Arms, ammunition and explosives are all over the place and provide opportunities for these violent groups to generate revenues to assert their will through violence," AFRICOM Gen. David Rodriguez told reporters last month at his Stuttgart headquarters.

The U.S. military had been planning to train between 5,000 and 8,000 Libyan troops as part of an effort to strengthen the fledgling government's army. The training was expected to take place in eastern Europe. NATO also had plans to train Libyan forces, but those efforts, too, have been on hold because of the widespread unrest in the country.

However, earlier this week, Libya's newly appointed army chief of staff said during a visit to Cairo that Egypt had promised to provide support to the Libyan military, including training, Egyptian media reported.

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MIKE TRIPP, THE (STAUNTON, VA.) NEWS LEADER/AP

The crew of a Maryland State Police helicopter prepares to take off Wednesday in Deerfield, Va., to search for the missing pilot of an F15 fighter jet that crashed into a mountain near Elliot Knob, Va.

## Search continues for missing pilot

By CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force beefed up the aerial search for a missing Massachusetts Air National Guard fighter pilot in early morning hours Thursday with the addition of an HC-130 aircraft specially equipped for low-light and nighttime search and rescue missions.

Several helicopters also combed the heavily forested area of western Virginia where his plane went down early Wednesday throughout the night after searchers struggling on the ground found conditions too treacherous to continue, military and law enforcement officials said.

The pilot, who has not been identified by the 104th Fighter Wing, based in Westfield, Mass., radioed air traffic controllers about a problem with his F-15C fighter at

about 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The plane, which was being flown to Naval Air Station New Orleans for a radar upgrade, crashed in a national forest area minutes later, leaving a sizable crater, Virginia police authorities said.

Reports that a witness saw the pilot eject and a parachute open could not be confirmed, Col. James Keefe, commander of the fighter wing said Wednesday.

The Air Force has secured the crash site, and representatives from a host of other local agencies were on hand, officials said, including the Virginia National Guard, the Augusta County sheriff and fire officials, the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, the FBI and the US Forest Service.

At least 100 searchers in vehicles, helicopters and on foot combed areas near the site, locat-

ed on a level area next to a mountain known as Elliott Knob. As darkness fell Wednesday, searchers switched tactics because of the hazards of operating in the remote area.

"Search crews on the ground are conducting 'hasty searches,'" Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said in an emailed statement to the media at about 10 p.m. Wednesday. "These are searches along logging roads, fire trails, forest roads, etc. This is for the safety of the search crews, as the off-road terrain in the George Washington National Forest is too rocky, wooded and steep for navigation in the dark."

The search on the ground was called off after midnight but was to resume at 8 a.m. Thursday, Geller wrote.

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## Fort Lee soldier who killed herself was human resources specialist

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A soldier who barricaded herself in a building at a Virginia Army post and then fatally shot herself in the head earlier this week was a 33-year-old human resources specialist who had earned Army commendation and good conduct medals in the past, the Army said Wednesday.

Sgt. 1st Class Paula M. Walker, of Yonkers, N.Y., was pronounced dead after being taken to a hospital on Monday. She had barricaded herself in an office on the third floor of the four-story building that houses the Army's Combined Arms Support Command after brandishing a weapon and throwing things. About 1,100 people were inside, but no one else was hurt in the morning shooting. Her gun was not a service weapon, officials said.

Walker had been in the Army

for nearly 14 years and at Fort Lee since December 2011. Prior to that, the Army said Walker served at Fort Devens, Mass., starting in 2010, and was at Fort Eustis, Va., beginning in 2006. Her career included a 15-month combat tour in Iraq from 2007 to 2008.

Base commander Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Lyons has described Walker as upset and enraged but said he couldn't say whether that was consistent with her personality. The Army said her awards and decorations include three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, one Joint Meritorious Unit Award and four Army Good Conduct Medals.

Lyons, who took over as commanding general last week, has said he did not know whether Walker was being treated for any mental health issues and could not speculate whether drugs or

alcohol might have been a factor. The Army reported 301 soldiers committed suicide in 2013, which was down from 325 in 2012. Those figures include soldiers in the National Guard and Army Reserves.

The heavily trafficked Fort Lee was locked down for about an hour before reopening with normal operations.

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## New slaying trial ordered for soldier who blamed drug

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The nation's highest military appeals court on Wednesday ordered a new trial for a soldier who killed a Fresno, Calif., native in a sudden rage allegedly induced by the anti-smoking drug Chantix.

In a unanimous decision, the five-member U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces concluded the original trial judge should have instructed jurors that "involuntary intoxication" could be a defense. The defendant, Army Pfc. George D.B. MacDonald, says the Chantix caused him to snap.

The 37-page decision means the possibility of eventual freedom for MacDonald, who was sentenced to life without parole after his original conviction.

MacDonald, a promising young paratrooper, was prescribed Chantix in April 2008, one month before he came upon Rick Bulmer, a 23-year-old Army recruit sleeping in the barracks at Fort Benning, Ga. Bulmer was married and his wife, Beth, was expecting their first child. He was in his first week of basic training. MacDonald stabbed and slashed Bulmer more than 50 times.

## MILITARY

# CBO Report explains why VA claims exploded

By TOM PHILPOTT

America's population of living veterans fell by almost 5 million, or 17 percent, from 2000 to 2013. So why did the number of veterans drawing disability compensation climb by 55 percent over that period? And why have yearly VA disability payments tripled since 2000 to reach \$60 billion in 2014? The Congressional Budget Office explains why in a new report, and the primary reason is not found among veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. That source of claims is significant, but not yet near its peak.

A greater factor has been liberalized laws and policies on "service-connected" ailments, particularly decisions to compensate Vietnam War veterans for common medical conditions of aging and lifestyle because of an "association" with possible exposure to herbicides used in that war.

For example, in 2000, only 35,000 veterans from all war eras were receiving disability compensation for diabetes. By last year, 320,000 veterans from the Vietnam War alone drew diabetes-related compensation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs expanded its list of diseases presumed caused by Agent Orange to ischemic heart disease,

## MILITARY UPDATE

Parkinson's disease and certain types of leukemia in 2010. By June of last year, that decision had led the VA to process 280,000 claims for the newly presumptive ailments and to make \$4.5 billion in retroactive disability payments.

Another factor of growth in VA claims has been a weak labor market, the CBO says, which encourages out-of-work or underemployed veterans to apply for disability compensation. Current law allows them to do so at any age and as often as they like. Indeed, laws enacted in 2000 and 2008 required the VA to strengthen the help given to veterans to apply for disability benefits and to substantiate claims. The VA also increased outreach to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and eased PTSD diagnostic requirements.

All such efforts, the CBO says, are aided by the Internet and its capability to relay information quickly, and by websites that offer information on benefits and programs and encourage veterans to

submit claims online.

The CBO prepared its report, Veterans' Disability Compensation: Trends and Policy Options, at the request of the ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Mike Michaud, of Maine.

As with most CBO reports, it offers only "objective, impartial analysis" and options, not recommendations. But the options for easing the river of VA compensation claims are controversial. Many will be unpopular with veterans and will be condemned by powerful veterans' service organizations, which would seem to make adoption by Congress or the VA unlikely outside of a larger, bipartisan package of federal entitlement reforms.

For example, the CBO floats three options to alter policies on identifying service-connected conditions and to conduct long-term monitoring of disability ratings. One would impose a time limit on filing initial claims. The CBO notes that in 2012, roughly 43 percent of first-time recipients of disability pay had filed claims while 55 or older, even though most had left service by age 30. Seven percent of new claimants that year were 75 or older.

"Many Vietnam veterans, all of whom are now over the age of 55,

began to receive compensation recently for such common medical conditions as hearing loss (35,000 new cases in 2012) and tinnitus (40,000 new cases in 2012)," the CBO points out. It suggests that veterans could be required to file initial claims within a fixed period of time, such as within five or 10 or 20 years of leaving active duty, depending on the medical conditions claimed, because some conditions would take longer than others to become apparent.

Another option would require more re-examinations of veterans with disability ratings to track changes and thus to adjust ratings.

A third option is to change the "positive-association standard" the VA has used to form its list of "presumptive" medical conditions. For example, the VA presumes any Vietnam War veteran who has Type II diabetes or heart disease contracted the condition from wartime exposure to Agent Orange.

The CBO notes that a medical finding of a positive association "does not prove that the occurrence of a disease results from exposure to a particular hazard." Indeed, using the association standard, says the CBO, "can result in providing benefits for conditions that are common in the general

population and that may be more strongly associated with non-service-related risk factors such as genetics, aging or lifestyle."

That option would have the VA continue to make "a positive association between exposure to a hazard and onset of a disease a necessary criterion for establishing the presumption that a condition is connected to military service, but it would no longer have such an association constitute the sole factor for establishing that presumption."

The VA would have to consider "other known risk factors, such as diet and aging, in the development of the medical condition."

Other CBO options to control disability pay include an end to Individual Unemployability benefits to veterans old enough to qualify for social security; dampening cost-of-living adjustments; and restoring the ban on "concurrent receipt" of both VA disability pay and military retirement.

Repealing concurrent receipt, the CBO says, would have the largest budgetary effect of any option, saving the government \$119 billion during the next 10 years.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update.

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## MIDEAST

## Obama back to Congress' role on Syria

By JULIE PACE

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama faces a familiar question as he contemplates airstrikes in Syria: Should Congress have a say in his decision?

Obama was barreling toward strikes last summer when he abruptly announced that he first wanted approval from congressional lawmakers. Congress balked at Obama's request for a vote and the operation was eventually scrapped.

This time around, the White House is suggesting it may not be necessary to get a sign-off from Congress for airstrikes. While cautioning that Obama has made no final decisions, officials say there is a difference between this year's effort to attack Syria's government in retaliation for chemical weapons use and a bombing campaign against Islamic State militants that is now under consideration.

"What we're talking about now is confronting a terrorist group that has been sought safe haven in Syria," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said when asked about the prospect of Obama again seeking congressional authorization. "This is a group that poses a threat to Americans in the region and could potentially, down the line, pose a broader threat to American interests and our allies around the globe."

Earlier this month, Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq. The militants have been moving with ease between Iraq and Syria, effectively blurring the border between the nations.

Thus far, there has been little clamor among congressional leaders for Obama to seek approval from Capitol Hill before proceeding with military action in Syria. With the midterm elections just over two months away, lawmakers may be even less inclined to take a politically risky vote on military action.

"I see no reason to come to Congress because, if the people, I'll just come a circus," Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said this week.

Still, there are notable members of both parties who are calling for a vote if Obama seeks to move into Syria. Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, a frequent critic of the administration's foreign policy, has said Congress should "certainly" authorize any military action in Syria. Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat and White House ally, has also called for a vote. Obama is pursuing a broader strategy for going after the Islamic State group.

"I am calling for the mission and objectives for this current significant military action against ISIL to be made clear to Congress. I am calling for a vote on our men and women in uniform," said Kaine, using one of the older acronyms for the militant group. "Congress should vote up or down on it."

Obama's surprise decision on Syria last year drew some degree to which the dynamics in

## Not always same legal path to military action

WASHINGTON — A look at the domestic legal justifications the U.S. has used for military action around the world:

## Iraq

Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq in 2002, clearing the way for the U.S.-led war in Iraq. The authorization still is on the books but President Barack Obama has called for it to be repealed.

The White House says Obama had the power to authorize the airstrikes currently underway in Iraq through the inherent commander-in-chief powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Officials also note that Iraq's sovereign government requested U.S. military assistance to combat Islamic State militants.

## Afghanistan

In the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force that was meant to give President George W. Bush the authority to go after al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

## Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia

The Bush and Obama administrations have both used the 2001 force authorization to justify drone strikes against terrorist targets in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. The U.S. also has back-channel consent for the strikes from Pakistan's government and a more overt agreement with Yemen.

## Libya

Obama did not seek congressional approval when the U.S. joined NATO allies in a 2011 bombing campaign in Libya. Officials argue that the nature of the mission, which did not involve American combat troops and was commanded by NATO, did not require authorization from lawmakers.

— The Associated Press

Washington could quickly flip. The president could ultimately decide to seek congressional approval once again, and more lawmakers could demand that he take that step.

Legal experts say Obama would have the authority to launch airstrikes in Syria without congressional approval, though they say his standing would be strengthened if the scope and duration of the attacks were limited.

"The Constitution gives only Congress the power to initiate war," said Ilya Somin, a law professor at George Mason University. "You could argue that a small number of strikes over a small number of days does not constitute a war."

Obama authorized the ongoing strikes in Iraq without congressional approval. The White House also offered a trio of justifications for the unilateral action: an imminent threat to American personnel stationed in Iraq, a request for assistance in countering the militants from the Iraqi government, and a humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq, where militants had trapped religious minorities.



RAQQA MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE/AP

This updated image posted Wednesday shows Islamic State fighters, who captured the Tabqa air base from the Syrian government on Sunday, firing a captured tank in Raqqa, Syria.

## Terrorists kill Syrian soldiers

*The Associated Press*

BEIRUT — The Islamic State group has killed at least 150 Syrian soldiers it captured after overrunning a military base in northeastern Syria, shooting some and using knives on others in the latest brutal mass killing attributed to the extremists, activists said Thursday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the militants rounded up the soldiers in the arid countryside on Wednesday near the Tabqa airfield, three days after seizing the base in heavy fighting. The government troops were among a large group of soldiers from the base who were stuck behind the front lines after the airfield fell to the jihadi fighters.

Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman said the extremists killed up to 65 soldiers. He said some were shot to death, while others were killed with knives.

A statement posted online and circulated on Twitter by supporters of the Islamic State group claimed the extremists killed "about 200" government prisoners captured near Tabqa.

It also showed photographs of what it said were the prisoners: young men stripped down to their underwear marching in the desert. The photos could not immediately be verified, but correspond to other Associated Press reporting.

The photos and reported mass killing underscored how the group uses violence — and images of violence — to terrorize its opponents as it sweeps further into Syria and Iraq. The group

has declared an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the territories it controls straddling the border.

On Wednesday, a U.N. commission accused the extremist group of committing crimes against humanity in Syria. The U.N. has accused the group of similar crimes in Iraq.

In southern Syria, meanwhile, government warplanes targeted rebels near the country's frontier with Israel in the Golan Heights, a day after opposition fighters captured a crossing point on the disputed border.

The Syrian airstrikes hit several areas near the frontier in Quneitra province, including the village of Jaba, said the Observatory, which relies on a network of activists inside Syria. The Local Coordination Committees, another activist group, also reported the air raids.

The Observatory said heavy clashes were raging between the rebels and the Syrian military in Jaba and the surrounding countryside.

White plumes of smoke set off by exploding mortar rounds could be seen on Thursday from the Israeli side of the Golan. The sound of small-arms fire could be heard echoing in the background.

An array of Syrian rebel groups, including the al-Qaida-linked al-Nusra Front, captured the frontier crossing on Wednesday. A rebel spokesman said the opposition is focused on fighting President Bashar Assad and poses no threat to Israel.

with international law. The clearest basis for military action would be a U.N. Security Council resolution. However, Obama is unlikely to get that authorization, given that Russia, the biggest benefactor of Syrian President Bashar Assad, would probably wield its veto power unless military action were coordinated with Syria.

Some international law experts argue that airstrikes could be justified as a matter of self-defense. Obama could argue that the Islamic State group poses a threat to the U.S. and its allies from inside Syria, whose government is unable to stop it.

Anthony Clark Arend, a gov-

ernment and foreign service professor at Georgetown University, said Obama could also argue that he was acting alongside Iraq in the interest of "collective defense." That theory would posit that the strikes in Syria are an extension of Iraq's request to the U.S. to help it fight terrorists.

Another possibility: Although the U.S. has said it will not coordinate with Assad, the Syrian dictator could give back-channel consent to American attacks. The U.S. has a similar arrangement with the Pakistani military for U.S. drone strikes there, even though Pakistani officials publicly condemn the American actions.



## MIDEAST

# Experts see long fight to stop militant threat

By CAROL J. WILLIAMS  
Los Angeles Times

While the world has recoiled in horror at the atrocities committed by Islamic State radicals, the violence has helped the militant group recruit a global force of extremists and has furthered its pursuit of a fundamentalist Muslim caliphate in the heart of the Middle East, terrorism experts say.

The United States and its Western allies have responded with airstrikes on militant positions in Iraq and relief operations for the victims of the al-Qaida splinter group's campaign of violence.

But the air attacks on Islamic State fighters in Iraq and contemplation of similar action in war-torn Syria will do little more than temporarily curb the militants' momentum as the international community struggles to find a long-term solution to their destabilizing threat, analysts say.

"There is no short-term fix that will completely defeat this threat, so it's important to differentiate between stopping ISIS' momentum and ending or defeating them as an organization," said Jane Davidson, senior fellow for defense policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. She was referring to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, as the group called itself before proclaiming its caliphate two months ago.

Without forces in Iraq and Iraq to identify targets and ensure that civilian communities aren't vulnerable, airstrikes alone are unlikely to roll back the Islamic State militants who have seized large swaths of territory in those countries, Davidson said.

Targeted strikes can and have taken out militant positions and

training camps and can undermine the group's image as a force "screaming through Iraq with one military success after another," Davidson said. But air power alone won't do more than chase the militants from one stronghold to another, nor counter their sophisticated use of social media to recruit and raise funds, she said.

In an interview discussing Western states' limited options for containing the militants, she said they should focus on forming regional security alliances with Iraq's and Syria's Middle East neighbors and on reform of the Iraqi government that so excluded and repressed Sunni Muslims that many welcomed the militants when they overran northern Iraq.

The Islamic State battlegrounds and its gruesome execution of enemies have become a magnet for aspiring militants around the world, said Christopher Chivvis, a senior political scientist at the Rand Corp.

Chivvis estimates the number of foreign fighters who have joined Islamic State and other militant Sunni factions at 10,000, including as many as 3,000 carrying European passports and a "not insignificant number" from the United States. On Tuesday, White House officials confirmed that a San Diego man, Douglas McArthur McCain, had died in Syria fighting for the Islamic State.

"People like to be on the winning team and right now it looks like ISIS is winning," Chivvis said. "They have effectively challenged al-Qaida as leader of global jihad, offering a different model for what jihad ought to look like — more violent, more locally focused, but equally extreme."

If the United States and its al-

lies want to combat the Islamic State's power to attract disaffected and marginalized Muslims, broad international cooperation is required in law enforcement and intelligence sharing, Chivvis said. He pointed to the U.S. turn at the U.N. Security Council presidency in September as an opportunity to galvanize coordinated efforts to counter the extremists' message.

Like Davidson, Chivvis sees little prospect of Western states collaborating with Syrian President Bashar Assad to roll back their common enemy, the Islamic State. It would be politically and operationally problematic, he said, as Assad is accused of committing war crimes against his own people.

An independent U.N. investigative commission on Wednesday issued a scathing report accusing all combatants in Syria of inflicting "immeasurable suffering" on civilians, including the Assad government's sarin gas attacks on suburbs of Aleppo a year ago and barrel-bombing of opposition-held villages in the provinces of Idlib and Hama with chlorine gas in April.

Jeffrey Bale, a historian and scholar of political and religious extremism at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, crit-



IRAQI MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP/AP

This image posted Wednesday, which was verified and is consistent with Associated Press reporting, shows fighters of the Islamic State waving the group's flag from a damaged government fighter jet following the battle for the Tabqa air base in Raqqa, Syria.

icized the Obama administration and its European allies for ruling out collaboration with Assad, whom he sees as the lesser of two evils.

"The regime in Syria is fighting for its own survival, using brutal methods and not concerning themselves with civilian casualties," Bale said. "But neither are the jihadists — they are deliberately targeting civilians and anyone they consider insufficiently

Islamic.

"We should be collaborating with the Assad regime and with the Iranians, who already have Revolutionary Guards in Iraq, to weaken and destroy the operational capabilities of Islamic State. It's not like we're not doing this anywhere else in the world," he said, pointing out U.S. alliances with authoritarian governments in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

## US checking report of 2nd American killed in Syria

By BRADLEY KLAPPER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is trying to determine if a second American fighting with the Islamic State group has been killed in Syria.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Wednesday that the U.S. has no independent confirmation of reports of a second American killed while fighting with the militant group. "We're looking into it," she said.

NBC cited an anonymous member of the opposition Free Syrian Army as saying two Americans were killed in a battle last week with Islamic State fighters.

The U.S. confirmed the death of one American, Douglas McArthur McCain, who grew up

outside Minneapolis in the town of New Hope and most recently lived in San Diego.

A relative, Kenneth McCain, told The Associated Press that the State Department called to tell his family that Douglas McCain had been killed in Syria. "We do not know if he was fighting anyone," he said.

Investigators were aware that McCain was in Syria to fight with the militant group, said a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss by name an ongoing investigation and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Surveillance flights have begun over Syria on the orders of President Barack Obama, a move that could pave the way for airstrikes against the Islamic State group.

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## UKRAINE

## Ukraine: Russian troops cross border

## FROM FRONT PAGE

"An invasion is an invasion is an invasion," tweeted the Lithuanian ambassador to the U.N., Raimonda Murmokaite.

"Russian supplies, tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and multiple rocket launchers have been insufficient to defeat Ukraine armed forces. So now an increasing number of Russian troops are intervening directly in fighting on Ukrainian territory," Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, tweeted Thursday.

Pyatt said that Russia has also sent SA-22 advanced air defense systems into eastern Ukraine, and Russian troops are now "directly involved in the fighting."

The U.N. Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Thursday afternoon.

"Russian forces have entered Ukraine," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said, canceling a foreign trip and calling an emergency meeting of the country's security council. "Today the president's place is in Kiev."

Poroshenko urged his citizens to resist giving into panic.

"Destabilization of the situation and panic, this is as much of a weapon of the enemy as tanks," Poroshenko told the security council.

As Poroshenko spoke, the strategic southeastern town of Novosvitove appeared firmly under the control of separatists and their Russian backers, a new, third front in the war in eastern Ukraine between the separatists and Poroshenko's government in Kiev.

Russia's ambassador to the EU, Vladimir Chizhov, told the BBC that "NATO has never produced a single piece of evidence" of Russian troops operating in Ukraine. He said the only Russian soldiers in Ukraine were the 10 captured this week, who Moscow insists had mistakenly wandered across the border.

The Russian Defense Ministry didn't directly deny its troops

were in Ukraine, but said the list of Russian military units said to be operating in Ukraine had no relation to reality.

Lysenko said the missiles from Russia were fired at Ukrainian positions in the southeast about 11 a.m. and an hour and a half later, two columns, including tanks and other fighting vehicles, began an attack. They entered Ukraine from Veselo-Voznesenka and Maximovo in the Rostov region of Russia.

Russian stock markets diving as Switzerland joined the European Union in imposing restrictions on Russian state banks and fears grew that the U.S. and EU could impose further sanctions in response to the military escalation.

"Over the past two weeks we have noted a significant escalation in both the level and sophistication of Russia's military interference in Ukraine," Tak said in Casteau, Belgium. "Russia is reinforcing and resupplying separatist forces in a blatant attempt to change the momentum of the fighting, which is currently favoring the Ukrainian military."

He said the 1,000 Russian troops was a conservative estimate and said another 20,000 Russian troops were right over the border.

NATO also produced satellite images to provide what it called additional evidence that Russian combat soldiers, equipped with sophisticated heavy weaponry, are operating inside Ukraine's sovereign territory.

"This is highly sophisticated weaponry that requires well-trained crews, well-trained command and control elements, and it is extremely unlikely that this sort of equipment is used by volunteers," Tak said.

Moscow has described the Russian citizens fighting with the separatists as volunteers.

Tak said the satellite images were only "the tip of the iceberg" in terms of the overall scope of Russian troop and weapons



PHOTOS BY SERGEI GITS/AP

**Ukrainian forces guard a checkpoint Thursday in Mariupol, eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's president Petro Poroshenko called an emergency meeting of the nation's security council, declaring that "Russian forces have entered Ukraine."**

movements.

NATO also has detected large quantities of advanced weapons, including air defense systems, artillery, tanks and armored personnel carriers being transferred to separatist forces in eastern Ukraine," Tak said.

The leader of the insurgency, Alexander Zakharchenko, said in an interview on Russian state television Thursday up to 4,000 Russians have fought on the separatist side since the armed conflict began in April.

The U.S. government also has accused Russia of orchestrating the rebel campaign and sending in tanks, rocket launchers and armored vehicles.

"These incursions indicate a Russian-directed counteroffensive is likely underway in Donetsk and Luhansk," U.S. State

Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. She voiced concern about overnight deliveries of materiel in southeast Ukraine near Novozovsk and said Russia was being dishonest about its actions, even to its own people.

Russian forces, she said, are being sent 30 miles (about 50 kilometers) inside Ukraine, without them or their families knowing where they are going. She cited reports of burials in Russia for those who have died in Ukraine and wounded Russian soldiers being treated in a St. Petersburg hospital.

On Thursday morning, an Associated Press journalist saw rebel checkpoints on Novozovsk's outskirts and was told he couldn't enter. One of the rebels said there was no fighting in the town.

Novozovsk, which lies along the road connecting Russia to the

Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula, had come under shelling for three days, with the rebels entering it on Wednesday. This area had previously escaped the fighting that has engulfed areas to the north, and the only way rebels could have reached the southeast was by coming through Russia.

The new southeastern front raised fears that the separatists are seeking to create a land link between Russia and Crimea. If successful, it could give them or Russia control over the entire Sea of Azov and the gas and mineral riches that energy experts believe it contains. Ukraine already lost roughly half its coastline, several major ports and significant Black Sea mineral rights in March when Russia annexed Crimea.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.

## 2 broad multinational exercises to begin in shadow of Russia moves

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two large multinational exercises will kick off this week amid fears about a resurgent Russia, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Beginning Thursday, about 160 U.S. troops will participate in Combined Endeavor, an annual exercise that U.S. European Command described as "the largest command, control, communications and computers interoperability event in the world."

The Defense Department could not immediately provide the unit assignments or other additional details about the participating American forces.

The war game, which involves 1,200 troops from 31 NATO and NATO partner nations, will take place in Grafenwohr, Germany, and a forward operating site in Iceland.

EUCOM said the purpose of Combined Endeavor "is to improve interoperability among participating militaries and prepare nations to 'collaborate, plan and execute complex C4 systems in crisis response and combat operations.'"

Northern Coasts, which kicks off Friday, is a Finnish-led maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea region. This year, the U.S., Canada, Germany and Denmark are slated to participate alongside Finland.

The exercise is "a fictive crisis-management operation taking place at sea and along the coast," according to the Finnish Defense Forces.

Approximately 50 ships, aircraft, and about 3,000 people will participate, including airborne and special operations troops, according to the Finnish Defense Forces. The U.S. contingent will consist of 12 sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 8, based in Rota, Spain. They will be involved in underwater countermine and counterIED training, according to the Pentagon.

Both exercises are scheduled to conclude Sept. 12.

The U.S. and NATO have en-

hanced their exercises and force rotations in Central and Eastern Europe since Russia annexed part of neighboring Ukraine earlier this year. Moscow continues to provide extensive military support to a pro-Russian separatist movement there, including firing artillery at Ukrainian military forces, according to Western and Ukrainian officials.

A dozen F-15s and approximately 180 personnel from the 493rd, based at RAF Lakenheath, England, are in Bulgaria participating in a two-week bilateral training exercise with the Bulgarian air force.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon announced that about 600 soldiers from the Army's 1st Cav-

alry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, will deploy to Poland and the Baltic States in October for a three-month series of land warfare training exercises, which will involve M-1 Abrams tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, and armored personnel carriers.

On Wednesday, NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the alliance is planning to boost its presence in Eastern Europe by pre-positioning supplies and equipment and enhancing infrastructure. The initiative would facilitate the influx of a rapid response force in the event of a crisis with Russia, according to news reports.

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## NATION



JOHN LOCHER/AP

A man closes off an entrance to the Last Stop outdoor shooting range Wednesday in White Hills, Ariz., where a range instructor was accidentally killed Monday by a 9-year-old girl.

## Ready, aim, smile: US gun ranges are a big tourist draw

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The death of a firearms instructor by a 9-year-old girl who was firing a fully automatic Uzi displayed a tragic side of what has become a hot industry in the U.S.: gun tourism.

With gun laws keeping high-powered weapons out of reach for most people — especially those outside the U.S. — indoor shooting ranges with the weapons have become a popular attraction.

Tourists from Japan flock to ranges in Waikiki, Hawaii, and the dozen or so that have cropped up in Las Vegas offer bullet-riddled bachelor parties and literal shotgun weddings, where newly married couples can fire submachine gun rounds and pose with Uzis and ammo belts.

"People just want to experience things they can't experience elsewhere," said Genghis Cohen, owner of Machine Guns Vegas. "There's not an action movie in the past 30 years without a machine gun."

The accidental shooting death of the firing-range instructor in Arizona set off a powerful debate over youngsters and guns, with many people wondering what sort of parents would let a child handle a submachine gun.

Instructor Charles Vacca, a 39-year-old Army veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, was standing next to the girl Monday at the Last Stop range in White Hills, Ariz., about 60 miles south of Las Vegas, when she squeezed the trigger. The recoil wrenched the Uzi upward, and Vacca was shot in the head.

Prosecutors say they will not file charges in the case. The identities of the girl and her family have not been released.

Many American youth grow up around guns, and taking part in their first hunt with parents is a rite of passage in rural America. Giving a child an automatic Uzi is a different story.

The dusty outdoor range calls itself the Bullets and Burgers



BOB MACDUFF/AP

Lindsay MacDuff holds an automatic weapon at a gun business in Las Vegas after her "shotgun wedding."

Adventure and touts its "Desert Storm atmosphere."

Similar attractions have been around since the 1980s in Las Vegas, although the city has experienced a boom of such businesses in the past few years. Owning an automatic weapon is cost-prohibitive — an M5 might go for \$25,000, while a chance to gun down zombie targets with an AR-15 and three other weapons costs less than \$200.

Tourists from Australia, Europe or Asia, where civilians are barred from many types of guns, long to indulge in the quintessentially American right to bear arms. The businesses cast a light-hearted spin on their shooting experiences, staging weddings in their ranges and selling souvenir T-shirts full of bullet holes.

But behind the bravado, owners acknowledge they are one errant movement away from tragedy.

Jace Zack, chief deputy for the Mohave County Attorney's Office, said the instructor was probably the most criminally negligent person involved for having allowed the child to hold the gun without enough training.

# White House is preparing its plan for immigration reform

By JOSH LEDEKMAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With imminent threats and potential lawsuits looming, President Barack Obama knows whatever executive actions he takes on immigration will face intense opposition. So as a self-imposed, end-of-summer deadline to act approaches, Obama's lawyers are carefully crafting a legal rationale they believe will withstand scrutiny and survive any court challenges, administration officials say.

The argument goes something like this: Beyond failing to fix broken immigration laws, Congress hasn't even provided the government with enough resources to fully enforce the laws already on the books. With roughly 11.5 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally — far more than the government could reasonably deport — the White House believes it has wide latitude to prioritize which of those individuals should be sent home.

But Republicans, too, are exploring their legal options for stopping Obama from what they've deemed egregious presidential overreaching.

While Obama has yet to receive the formal recommendations he's requested from Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, administration officials said the

president is intimately familiar with the universe of options and won't spend much time deliberating once Johnson delivers his report.

Obama's goal had been to announce his decision around Labor Day before leaving on a trip next week to Estonia and Wales. A host of national security crises have pushed the announcement back, likely until after Obama returns, said the officials, who weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity.

After resisting calls to act alone in hopes Congress would pass a comprehensive immigration fix, Obama in June bowed to immigration activists and said that "if Congress will not do their job, at least we can do ours."

The most sweeping, controversial step under consideration involves halting deportation for millions, a major expansion of a 2012 Obama program that deferred prosecutions for those brought here illegally as children. Roughly half a million have benefited from that program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

But while prosecutors are routinely expected to use their discretion on a case-by-case basis, such blanket exempting of entire categories of people has never been done on the scale of what Obama is considering — potentially involving many millions of people

if he extends relief to parents of DACA children, close relatives of U.S. citizens or immigrants with clean criminal records.

"The question is how broadly can the president extend the categories and still stay on the side of spectrum of ensuring the laws are faithfully executed?" said Cristina Rodriguez, who left the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel in 2013 to teach at Yale Law School.

Other options under consideration, such as changes to how green cards are distributed and counted, might be less controversial because of the support they enjoy from the business community and other influential groups.

Obama may have undermined his case because he has insisted time and again that he's the president, not the king, and "can't just make the laws up by myself."

Republicans are already hinting they'll consider legal action to thwart what they've denounced as a violation of the separation of powers. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, in a conference call this month with GOP House members, accused Obama of "threatening to rewrite our immigration laws unilaterally."

"If the president fails to faithfully execute the laws of our country, we will hold him accountable," Boehner said, according to an individual who participated in the call.

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## NATION

## Police bullet accidentally kills 'Cops' sound tech

By MARGERY A. BECK  
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — When the call came from an officer who needed help facing an armed robber at a fast-food restaurant, two members of a reality television show riding along with Omaha police hustled to record the confrontation.

In the chaotic scene that unfolded, one crewmember was struck by "friendly fire" from one of the officers, a bullet slipping past his bulletproof vest and killing him, Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said Wednesday. The robbery suspect was also killed. The weapon he was carrying turned out to be a pellet gun, though it looked and sounded so real that both witnesses and officers were fooled, Schmaderer said.

Bryce Dion, 38, of Boston, the audio supervisor for "Cops," is the first crewmember of the long-running TV show to be killed while filming police in action, executives with the show's production company said. Police identified the robbery suspect as Cortez Washington, 32, who was on parole from Missouri for a robbery conviction.

Schmaderer told reporters that



NATHAN HARRIS/AP

**Frame grabs from security video show an armed robbery at a Wendy's restaurant in Omaha, Neb., in which Bryce Dion, a sound technician with the "Cops" television show who was embedded with Omaha police, was killed on Tuesday.**

police and prosecutors have reviewed the "Cops" video of Tuesday's shooting and found that the

officers "had no choice" but to open fire, though a grand jury will still be tasked with investigating.

## University bets \$10M on poor city's kids

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
The Associated Press

READING, Pa. — On the second day of class at Reading Senior High School, teacher Eric Knorr directs his students' attention to the banners hanging on the wall. Syracuse. Temple. Brown. Penn State. All of them brought back by former students who bucked the odds and went to college.

"You need to make sure you have a plan," Knorr exhorts the class. "Because your plan will lead to a banner. OK? It will lead to an opportunity to go to college."

Long seen as a way out of poverty, higher education eludes most students at Reading High. The public schools here are plagued by low test scores in reading, math and science; the school district has one of the highest dropout rates in the state; and, in a city where almost 60 percent of the population is Hispanic, many students' parents speak little or no English.

Yet, as another school year gets underway, Reading's Alvernia University is placing a \$10 million bet that it can help kids in one of the nation's poorest cities get ready to do college work — and to succeed once they get there.

The first five students selected for the Reading Collegiate Scholars Program joined Alvernia's freshman class last week, flush with full-tuition scholarships and plenty of support to help them

make the transition from a high school where fewer than seven in 10 graduate.

"I want to be the best that I can, and I just push myself," said Melissa Rivera, 18. "There's no obstacle I can't overcome."

Alvernia, a small, private school started by Roman Catholic sisters, has partnered with the city's Olivet Boys & Girls Club on a program that aims to help hundreds of high school students get ready for college any college — through a four-year program of tutoring and mentoring. That effort launched in the spring.

Additionally, as many as 20 city kids a year will get full scholarships to Alvernia, where they'll receive additional tutoring and mentoring. The university is raising money to endow the scholarships.

"We can't forget about places like Reading," said David Myers, director of Alvernia's O'Pake Institute for Ethics, Leadership and Public Service. "We can't forget about these kinds of kids."

Alvernia is patterning its program after one run by the Posse Foundation, a 25-year-old group that's recruited more than 5,000 high-achieving high school students from major cities like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago to receive full scholarships from partner colleges and universities.

But there are important differences. Reading is a small, easily overlooked city of 88,000, while the students that Alvernia seeks to serve are not the ones who scored 1,400 on their SATs. They're typically average kids with potential — the ones who often slip through the cracks.

Rivera said most of her childhood friends "took a wrong path" and "started to go with the wrong crowd." "They had the motivation when they were younger but they lost it," she said.

Alvernia had tried before to serve underprivileged teenagers in Reading, with little success. Only 20 percent graduated within six years.

"We were bringing students here and they were not doing well," Myers said. "They weren't coming back after the first year."

Alvernia realized it would have to do more to help. Among other requirements, students in the Reading Collegiate Scholars Program commit to a summer "bridge" program and to regular meetings with community and faculty mentors who will help make sure they stay on track.

## Blackwater: Iraqis removed evidence

Attorney for security contractor says police scrubbed scene of '07 shooting

By PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A defense attorney told a federal jury on Wednesday that Iraqi national police removed evidence that would prove Blackwater security guards were being fired on by insurgents, prompting the guards to return fire in shootings that killed or wounded more than 30 Iraqi civilians.

The assertion came in closing arguments at the guards' trial that began in June. Prosecutor Anthony Asuncion told the federal jury that the Blackwater guards unleashed a hail of gunfire that left "bloody, bullet-riddled corpses" at a Nisour Square in downtown Baghdad seven years ago.

Lawyers for the defendants said the guards acted in self-defense in firing their weapons, that there is ample evidence they were fired upon by insurgents, but that additional evidence supporting their case had disappeared.

"We will never know the extent to which Iraqi national police scrubbed the scene" of evidence that Blackwater guards were fired on, said Brian Heberling, who is representing former Blackwater guard Paul Slough.

Declaring that there was no incoming gunfire, Asuncion said the four defendants "took something that didn't belong to them."

The lives of human beings and the health of others who are still suffering from their wounds from the Sept. 16, 2007, shootings.

The jurors' job "is a search for truth" in the wake of violently shattered lives, Asuncion said.

The U.S. government brought charges against the defendants in 14 of the deaths and 18 of the non-fatal shootings.

One defendant, Nicholas Slatten, faces a first-degree murder charge. Defendants Slough, Dustin Heard and Evan Liberty are charged with voluntary manslaughter, attempted manslaughter and gun charges.

Slatten could be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted.

The others face mandatory minimum sentences of 30 years in prison if convicted of the gun charge and one other count.

In his closing argument, Asuncion disputed the self-defense assertions.

One of the witnesses in the trial, Blackwater team leader Jimmy Watson, testified that on that day in Nisour Square, he heard the incoming "pop" of what sounded like AK-47 rounds shortly before Slatten fired his weapon twice at the start of the violence.

Watson's testimony supports the idea that there was incoming gunfire because AK-47s were the type of weapons used by insurgents.

Asuncion discounted Watson's testimony, with the prosecutor saying that Watson had never said anything previously about incoming gunfire under questioning by investigators.

## Cold cash just keeps washing in from ALS bucket challenge

The Associated Press

In the couple of hours it took an official from the ALS Association to return a reporter's call for comment, the group's ubiquitous "ice bucket challenge" had brought in a few million more dollars.

Approaching \$100 million, the viral fundraising campaign for the ailment also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease has put the ALS group into the top ranks for medical research donations. Since the end of July, the money has been sloshing in at a rate of about \$9 million a week. Last year, from July 29 to Aug. 26, the group raised just \$2.6 million.

It's caught everyone off-guard, none more so than the ALS association folks. But they know this is likely a one-off phenomenon, and the group now faces the task of spending all that money wisely. Research, care and advocacy are the group's three main missions — but officials say they don't know yet exactly how they'll

use the astonishing windfall.

"I think even if I or any PR person at either a nonprofit or a for-profit could raise all of the PR dollars in the world to invest, no one would have come up with this idea," said Carrie Munk, the association's spokeswoman. "We realize there are responsibilities that come with being good stewards of these dollars."

Part of what's surprising is that ALS — or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — is one of those "small" diseases. It is a neurodegenerative disease that causes paralysis and death, and the association estimates that about 5,600 new cases are diagnosed in the U.S. each year.

This campaign hasn't exactly put the charity in the same neighborhood as giants like the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association — which raised \$889 million and \$529 million last year, respectively. But it's moving up quickly.

## WORLD

# Poll: Israelis doubt PM's Gaza victory claim

By PETER ENAV  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claim that Israel achieved a "great military and political" victory over Hamas in the latest round of fighting in the Gaza Strip has met with skepticism from many Israelis, according to a poll published Thursday.

The poll, published in the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper, shows that 54 percent of those surveyed believe there was no clear winner in the 50 days of war. The fighting killed 2,143 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to Palestinian health officials and U.N. officials. On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers, five civilians and a

Thai worker were killed.

The poll underscores the unease pervading Israeli society after the third round of fighting between Israel and Gaza-based Islamic militants in the seven years since Hamas took control of the densely populated coastal strip.

Some of Netanyahu's detractors, including ministers in his own government like veteran security hawk Uzi Landau, believe that the prime minister and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon did not go far enough in pursuing the war, insisting that they should not have stopped until Hamas was destroyed or pleaded for peace.

Others, particularly residents of hard-hit agricultural communities abutting the Gaza border,

fear that without a clear political road map for the Palestinian territory's future, a resumption of the rocket and mortar fire that caused such considerable disruption to their lives for most of the summer is not so much a question of if, but rather of when.

Still, calm has prevailed since the two sides agreed on Tuesday to an open-ended truce, settling for an ambiguous interim agreement in exchange.

Hamas, though badly battered, remains in control of Gaza with part of its military arsenal intact. Israel and Egypt are to continue to control access to the blockaded coastal strip despite Hamas' long-running demand that the border closures imposed in 2007

be lifted.

A former director of Israel's Shin Bet security service, Yuval Diskin, said the war's results "were disappointing and were accompanied by what some have described as a sense of sourness."

"The cease-fire that was achieved with Hamas has left the Israeli public frustrated," Diskin wrote in a commentary published in the popular Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper on Thursday.

The Haaretz poll questioned 464 Israelis on Wednesday and had a margin of error of 4.6 percent. While 54 percent said there was no clear-cut winner, some 25 percent of respondents said Israel had won the war, while 16 percent believed Hamas had prevailed.

The remaining 5 percent of those surveyed were undecided. The paper did not say how the survey was conducted.

Later that night in a nationally televised speech, Netanyahu said that Israel had dealt Hamas "a heavy blow."

"With the implementation of the cease-fire, I can say that there is a great military and political achievement here for the State of Israel," Netanyahu said. "Hamas was hit hard and it received not one of the demands it set forth for a cease-fire, not one."

Netanyahu also said Israel "will not tolerate" any more of the Hamas rocket fire that started the war on July 8, and would respond "even harder" if attacks resume.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

An employee of Daegyo, the dog meat restaurant, displays dog meat before serving customers Aug. 12 at a restaurant in Seoul, South Korea.

## Dog meat falling out of favor in S. Korea

By YOUNGYUNG LEE  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — For more than 30 years, chef and restaurant owner Oh Keum-il built her expertise in cooking one traditional South Korean delicacy: dog meat. In her twenties, Oh traveled around South Korea to learn dog meat recipes from each region. During a period of South Korean reconciliation with North Korea early last decade, she went to Pyongyang as part of a business delegation and tasted a dozen different dog dishes, from dog stew to dog tail, and served dog fish at the Koryo, one of the North's best hotels.

She adapted famous dishes to include dog meat, replacing beef with dog in South Korea's signature meat-and-rice dish bibimbab. But the 58-year-old's lifelong experience with a food eaten for centuries in Korea is about to become history.

Daegyo, the famous dog meat restaurant she opened in a Seoul alley in 1981, will serve its last bowl of boshintang, or dog

stew, on Friday, a reflection of the challenges facing a trade that is neither legal nor explicitly banned under South Korean laws governing livestock and food processing.

Opposite views on dogs as either for eating or petting have co-existed in the country's recent history, feeding a controversy that becomes most bitter in the summer. On three "dog days," which are among the hottest times of the year, many South Koreans queue for the dish of shredded dog meat and vegetables in hot red soup, believing it gives strength to bear the heat.

Animal rights activists protest nearby, urging people not to eat man's best friend. The closure of Oh's restaurant, dubbed by a local newspaper as the "Holy Land of boshintang" and frequented by two former presidents, Lee Myung-bak and the late Roh Moo-hyun, shows one view of dogs is gaining more traction among young South Koreans.

"There is too much generational gap in boshintang," said Oh. "There are no young customers."

Dogs are also food in countries such as China and Vietnam. The long tradition of eating the meat in South Korea is such that a respected 17th-century book on Korean medicine extols its health benefits. Today it is an increasingly tough sell and a less attractive dining option for young South Koreans. Oh plans to reopen her restaurant as a Korean beef barbecue diner.

Animal rights groups have also highlighted that some of the 2 million or so dogs eaten in South Korea each year suffer painful and inhumane deaths.

Most young people eat chicken soup on a dog day and even those who eat dog tend to refrain from talking about it openly, according to Moon Jaesuk, 32, a researcher who enjoyed eating dog meat before he moved to Seoul.

"There's a burden in a group of 10 or 20 people to suggest eating dog, like making a sexual joke," he said. "It's not easy to talk about eating dog when there are a lot of people."

## UN: Ebola cases could reach 20K

By JOHN HEILPRIN  
AND KRISTA LARSON  
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The Ebola outbreak in West Africa eventually could exceed 20,000 cases, more than six times as many as are now known, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

A new plan by the U.N. health agency to stop Ebola also assumes that the actual number of cases in many hard-hit areas may be two to four times higher than currently reported. If that's accurate, it suggests there could be up to 12,000 cases already.

"This far outstrips any historic Ebola outbreak in numbers. The largest outbreak in the past was about 400 cases," Dr. Bruce Aylward, WHO's assistant director-general for emergency operations, told reporters.

"What we are seeing today, in contrast to previous Ebola outbreaks: multiple hot spots within these countries — not a single, remote forested area, the kind of environments that have been tapped in the past. And then not multiple hot spots within one country, but international disease."

Another new dimension, he said, is the difficulty of dealing with Ebola in large cities and broad areas.

The agency published new figures saying that 1,552 people have died from the killer virus from among the 3,069 cases reported so far in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria. At least 40 percent of the cases have been identified in the last three weeks, the U.N. health agency said, adding that "the outbreak continues to accelerate."

In Geneva, the agency released a new plan for handling that aims to stop Ebola transmission in affected countries within six to nine months and prevent it from spreading internationally.

The plan calls for \$489 million to be spent during the next nine months and requires 750 international workers and 12,000 national workers.

The 20,000 cases figure, Aylward said, "is a scale that I think has not ever been anticipated in terms of an Ebola outbreak."

"That's not saying we expect 20,000," he added. "But we have got to have a system in place that we can deal with robust numbers."



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## A CENTURY OF TANKS

**Lt. Col. George S. Patton Jr., 1st Tank Battalion, stands in front of a French Renault tank in the summer of 1918.**

Courtesy of the U.S. Army Signal Corps

THE EVOLUTION OF THE

# 'KILLING MACHINE'

*Stars and Stripes*

**I**t's been 100 years since the world went to war in the summer of 1914, launching a global conflict that destroyed empires and claimed the lives of 9 million combatants and tens of millions of civilians.

World War I, the "War to End All Wars," not only redrew the map of Europe and the Middle East but also revolutionized the battlefield with technological breakthroughs such as the airplane and a new "killing machine" given a harmless-sounding name for security purposes: the tank.

Advances in technology, including the internal combustion engine, gave life to an idea first conceived by inventor and artist Leonardo da Vinci in 1487. The tank enabled troops to advance through barbed wire and

withering machine gunfire to deliver fire against terrified ground troops.

Those early tanks were clumsy and in many cases less effective than their designers had hoped.

In the years between World War I and World War II, however, the Germans realized the potential of armored warfare as a

way to improve mobility and avoid troops from getting bogged down in World War I-style trench warfare.

Tanks became the centerpiece of the Nazi Germans' "blitzkrieg," or "lightning war" tactics — powerful offensive strikes that enabled Germany to sweep over much of Europe in 1940 and 1941.

Seeing defenses crumble in France, the Soviet Union and elsewhere, the Allies accelerated their own tank production, rolling out thousands of armored vehicles that proved decisive in battles from the fields and hedgerows of Europe to the jungles of the Pacific.

Since then, the tank has become an integral part of modern warfare, proving its value in Korea, Vietnam and battlefields of the Middle East and Afghanistan.

## ONLINE

**Stars and Stripes looks at the evolution of the tank in a multimedia presentation**

**[stripes.com/go/tanks](http://stripes.com/go/tanks)**



Drawing by Leonardo da Vinci

**Leonardo da Vinci came up with the idea of an armored vehicle that could be driven into battle in 1487. It wasn't until four centuries later that tanks would find their way into the fight.**



Courtesy of the Tank Museum

**In 1915, First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill created a committee to tackle the challenge of trench warfare. The result was the British 14-ton "Little Willie" tank.**



Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives

**An M3 light tank crew is seen in Coburg, Germany, in April 1945. The M3 series tank was built for the U.S. Army and is credited as the genesis behind today's U.S. armor force.**



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**A U.S. Marine Corps patrol is being led by an M26 Pershing Heavy Tank as they hunt for North Korean guerrillas in a mountainous region of Korea in January 1951.**



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**Marines from the 4th Tank Division, Twentynine Palms, Calif., roll down a dirt road on their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank during training at Exercise Africa Lion in April 2012.**

## NATION

# No child hungry

## NYC uses food trucks to take free summer meals to children in need

By DEEPTI HAJELA  
The Associated Press

**W**ithin minutes, the line at the food truck parked on a busy Queens thoroughfare extended several people deep. Hipster foodies looking to sample vegan pizzas or fusion tacos?

Nope, these were children, agonizing over whether to pick the ham and cheese or the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, the regular or chocolate milk.

It was part of a summer meals program that tries to make sure the children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the academic year don't lose out just because school's out.

Instead of the kids coming to where the food is, the food goes to where the kids are.

New York City's Department of Education put its first truck in service a couple of years ago, and this year it has four — one that goes to Orchard Beach in the Bronx and three that go to a park and two library branches in Queens.

"By bringing the food to them we're able to extend our reach in ways that previously were unattainable," said Eric Goldstein, CEO of the department's Office of School Support Services.

Goldstein said about 75 percent of the city's 1.1 million public school students are eligible during the school year for daily free or reduced-price meals, which the city provides and gets reimbursed for by the federal government. Participa-



A child holds the free bagged lunch she received from the Get Ready 2 Go truck.

tion during the school year requires filling out paperwork, and not all eligible students take part.

There's no paperwork in the summer. But while participation in the summer meals program is on the rise, with 7.6 million meals served in summer 2013, up from 7.1 million in 2012, it's still lower than when school is in session.

That mirrors what's seen around the country, where only a small portion of the 21 million children who get meals during the school year have access to them in the summer



PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLA/AP

Children accompanied by parents receive free lunches at the Get Ready 2 Go food truck in the Flushing neighborhood of Queens, N.Y., on July 23. New York City's Department of Education has turned to food trucks as part of its summer meals program for children and teens ages 18 and younger.

when it can be more of a logistical challenge for parents to get kids to food sites.

Other places around the country have started using mobile delivery systems for their summer meals programs. In Baltimore, a summer meals program drops meals off at 11 sites, while in Waco, Texas, school buses go to certain designated sites and kids get on the bus to get their meals. In Florida's Palm Beach County, a church uses a retrofitted school bus to deliver meals to kids at three apartment complexes.

However, New York City was one of the first to offer mobile deliveries and "most probably resembles a traditional food truck,

perhaps more than almost anybody in the country," said Josh Wachs, chief strategy officer for the organization Share Our Strength. The organization's No Kid Hungry program helped the city get trucks for its mobile food offerings.

The trucks are white with bright colors. They're decorated with text that promotes the free meals and a number people can text to find the food service location closest to them. Something that is conspicuously missing is any reference to the idea that this is part of any anti-hunger program aimed at low-income residents.

That's on purpose, Wachs said. "Having a food truck-style vehicle makes it fun for kids, and reduces the stigma often associated with free meals that has limited participation," he said.

Participation with the trucks hasn't been an issue. In 2012, 122,000 meals were served out of trucks. In 2013, it had jumped up to 320,000, Wachs said.

Goldstein said that this summer, 65,000 more meals have been served via the trucks than at the same point last year.

Many of those have been at the truck outside the Queens Public Library branch on Main Street in the Flushing section of the borough, which had served more than 84,000 meals as of early this month.

They were eaten by people like 10-year-old Azwa Sadat and her 6-year-old sister, Zoya, who come by the truck a couple of times a week with their mother, Ifath, on their way to the library.

They both had chocolate milk and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and said they liked coming to the library even more because they knew the truck would be there.

"It smells good," Azwa said. Ying Li passed by the truck with her 5-year-old daughter, Sherry. "It's very convenient," she said, as the two went on their way to get her 7-year-old son from summer day camp.

Of course, kids being kids, it wasn't going to be perfect, as Sherry held onto her milk but seemed reluctant to eat her sandwich.

"She doesn't really like the bread," Li said with a laugh.



**"By bringing the food to them we're able to extend our reach in ways that previously were unattainable."**

Eric Goldstein  
New York City Department of Education

Free summer meals feature whole grain breads, assorted fruits and vegetables and low-fat or fat-free milk.



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## WORLD

STREET  
TALK

## Hip-hop and graffiti artists in Lebanon tag a nation's woes

By SAM KIMBALL  
The Associated Press

**BEIRUT** — In a red-lit bar in Beirut, Nasser Shorbagi and Marwan Alameh try not to knock the microphones over while laughing during the broadcast of their weekly radio show.

Moments later, they turn more somber as they introduce a segment on Palestinian hip-hop, discussing the most recent outbreak of war on Gaza. Heads nod in the packed bar to the rhymes of Sati, a Palestinian rapper.

The duo are among a host of Lebanese graffiti artists and rappers trying to re-engage disaffected youth in a debate about the country's latest wave of political turmoil and the woes of the greater Middle East.

"People don't want to be preached to," Alameh said. "So we're just doing a fun thing in order to put out serious issues."

One example is Shorbagi's latest music video to his song "O.P.P." which takes its title from the 1991 hit by U.S. hip-hop group Naughty By Nature. Shorbagi's version focuses on a suicide bomber working as a bank clerk who thinks through whether or not to carry out an attack on his workplace.

Another is rapper and graffiti artist Omar Kabbani, 31, who runs Ashekman, a rap, graffiti and urban clothing outfit with his brother Mohamed.

"We consider ourselves to be the eight o'clock news when we go out to do graffiti,"



PHOTOS BY BILAL HUSSEIN/AP

**Top:** Lebanese rappers perform during an open mic show at Radio Beirut in Lebanon. **Above:** Filipino Syrian rapper Nasser Shorbagi, left, and Lebanese Marwan Alameh, right, broadcast their show 'Bar Fight' at Radio Beirut. **Below:** A Lebanese graffiti artist, who goes by the art name Phat 2, right, and his friend, Edgar, speak after spray-painting graffiti on abandoned shops in Beirut.

Kabbani said. "They say I was born with a microphone and my twin brother with a spray can."

While Kabbani is wary of calling Ashekman's work political, the group's music and

street art does not avoid Lebanon's society's many conflicts. Ashekman's "Grendizer," a giant war robot from anime cartoons the group uses in its designs, is often used by Ashekman to mock what they see as mind-

less obedience to religious and political factions — and their militias — in Lebanon's polarized political landscape.

"Many people that were warlords in Lebanon are now ruling the country," he said, referring to leaders in Lebanon's 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990, who have gone on to prominent political careers.

In its song "Deyman Ijebeh," Arabic for "Always Positive," Ashekman makes fun of what they see as attempts by Lebanese to appear unperturbed by their country's instability.

"They (leaders) are fighting over who will rule the Banana Republic," Ashekman raps.

Ashekman's latest graffiti mural appeared in response to the recent spate of suicide bombings that shook Lebanon. The mural features the popular 1980s video game character Bomberman running with a cartoon-like bomb, fuse lit, in his hands. The character skips past the word "Wanted," written in Arabic. Kabbani says it is a reference to what Ashekman feels is Lebanese politicians' manipulation of the threat of terrorism for greater personal power and to cow their rivals.

Jackson Allers, an American Beirut-based journalist who specializes in Arab hip-hop, said artists in the country are just beginning to discover how much power they have.

"Their influence is increasing," he said. "They've turned the critical gaze of youth inward, at their own peer group, which I would say is positive."



## FAITH



PHOTOS BY SCOTT TAKUSHI, ST. PAUL (MINN.) PIONEER PRESS/AP

**Above:** Pastor Margaret Kelly runs a food truck ministry she calls Shobi's Table, where she serves free calzones that she makes from scratch and reads some Bible verses to those assembled on the sidewalk in St. Paul, Minn. **Below:** A tray of calzones is ready for distribution.

## From her food truck church, Minn. clergywoman serves up free calzones, prayers to the needy

BY RICHARD CHIN  
St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — There are a couple of clues that the mobile kitchen parked every Thursday at lunchtime on Payne Avenue on the East Side of St. Paul, Minn., this summer isn't just another food truck.

First of all, the food — hot calzones — is free. And the person who drives the truck is a young woman in a clerical collar who likes to say, "Peace be with you."

Her name is Margaret Kelly. She's 33, a preacher's kid, ex-French chef and former mental health case manager. She's now a pastor, and the food truck is her church.

It's not a typical church, but Kelly isn't your typical Lutheran pastor. She's a gay woman who started her training at Luther Seminary in St. Paul at a time when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America didn't allow gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy members.

"I was fairly confident that change was coming," Kelly said. She was right. In 2009, the church voted to allow people in committed same-gender relationships to be ministers.

After seminary, Kelly, who also has a master's degree in social work, worked for about three years for a nonprofit mental health agency. She was married in 2011 in a church wedding. She was ordained in 2012 and legally married to her wife, Eileen, last August, soon after gay marriages be-

came legal in Minnesota. That wedding was conducted by her father, a pastor in Bemidji, Minn.

Last year is also when she came up with the idea of a food truck church. When she was a mental health case manager, Kelly found that people in poverty often lack access to healthy food, reliable transportation, meaningful work and meaningful community.

She thought that one solution could be a church on wheels that drives to where people are, offering free food and prayer to the poor, homeless and near-homeless. The people helping to serve the meals would be from the community that the truck is serving. "Increased access to food that is cooked and served by those who need the increased access" is how Kelly describes it.

"We don't simply want it to be a church making handouts," said Kelly's boss, the Rev. Paul Erickson. "We are all ministers to and with each other."

To support the project, Kelly was able to get grant money from the national church as well as local churches such as St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, Minn.

St. Andrew's also was able to put Kelly in touch with Peter Bolstorff, a Stillwater, Minn., management consultant who, with his wife, Cary, started an organization called Mobile Action Ministries that owns a food truck serving the needy in the east-metro area.

Mobile Action agreed to loan Kelly its 28-foot, \$100,000 vehicle one day a week. Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St. Paul lets Kelly do food preparation work in its kitchen. Kelly, who once worked as a head cook for the Concordia French Language Village in northern Minnesota and in the meat de-

partment at the Wedge co-op grocery in Minneapolis, does the recipe and food planning.

"She is uniquely gifted for this ministry," Erickson said.

Kelly settled on calzones cooked from scratch as the truck's specialty. It's a hand pie, a comfort food common in many cultures and adaptable to healthy fillings.

The church's name is Shobi's Table, after an obscure Old Testament figure who offered food to a potential enemy, King David, and his followers.

According to Kelly, it's a story of "radical hospitality."

Kelly served her first meal from the truck on April 17. That was Maundy Thursday, the

**Margaret Kelly**  
pastor

Thursday before Easter that is a commemoration

of Christ's Last Supper.

On a recent Thursday at 11 a.m., the truck was parked at its usual spot on the curb outside a Family Dollar store.

Over the next couple of hours, a steady stream of people — elderly women, kids on bikes, youths in baggy pants — wandered up to the serving window, frequently asking, "It's free?" and being told, "It's free. Come and get it."

David Schoenmeyer, 45, came to get a calzone for himself and his girlfriend. He said they live on Social Security checks.

"We barely are surviving," he said. An alternative is a free lunch at a Salvation Army facility down the street, he said, but "the calzones are awesome."

"Once you know it's here, you come here," he said.

"Being homeless, news travels fast," said Marshall Johnson, 56, who said he comes to the food truck "when I'm really hungry. I don't abuse it."

"They're good people. They don't have to come out and serve us," he said.

"This is where everybody's at," said Shobi's Table volunteer Maurice Tribbett. "I come from the same place these people do. I used to be a gang member. I used to be a drug addict. I used to be homeless."

"We come to them," said Tribbett's wife, Mary Magill-Tribbett. "It's kind of meeting people where they're at, spiritually, physically and emotionally."

You don't have to be sober to get a meal at the truck. You don't have to be a gang member. I used to be a drug addict. I used to be homeless."

"I'm not bothered if people just want to eat and run and don't want any religion," Kelly said. "It's a gift from Christ, but it's not staring you in the face. This is a free lunch because Jesus is free."

On the Shobi's Table sign that's set up on the sidewalk, the words "Lutheran Church" are in fine print.

After giving out about 140 calzones, Kelly asks the handful of people still gathered on the sidewalk around the truck, "Shall we do some religion?"

"We keep things pretty simple," she said. "We read some Scripture and say some prayers."

Kelly said the food truck won't go into hibernation when winter comes. She hopes to get a heated tent and keep serving. Eventually, she would like to get her own truck and serve more days of the week. She also would like to partner with churches to get vegetables supplied from community gardens.

"A lot of this is breaking new ground in the church," said Kelly's boss, Erickson. "We're grateful for this chance to take on some holy experiments."

Erickson said the food-truck church eventually could offer curbside counseling and health services, along with traditional worship rites such as baptisms and communion.





# FACES

## Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt wed in France

By JAKE COYLE  
The Associated Press

**A**ngelina Jolie and Brad Pitt were married Saturday in Correns, France, a spokesman for the couple says.

Jolie and Pitt wed in a small chapel in a private ceremony attended by family and friends at Chateau Miraval. In advance of the nondenominational civil ceremony, Pitt and Jolie obtained a marriage license from a local California judge. The judge also conducted the ceremony in France. The couple's children took part in the

wedding. Jolie walked the aisle with her eldest sons Maddox and Pax. Zahara and Vivienne threw flower petals. Shiloh and Knox served as ring bearers, the spokesman says.

Jolie and Pitt's wedding caps years of rampant speculation on when the couple would officially tie the knot. Both had publicly said that they planned to.

"It's an exciting prospect, even though for us, we've gone further than that," Pitt told The Associated Press in an interview in November 2012. "But to concretize it in that way, it actually means more to me than I thought it would. It means a lot to

our kids."

This is the second marriage for Pitt, who wed Jennifer Aniston in 2000. They divorced in 2005. Jolie was previously married to British actor Jonny Lee Miller for three years in the late '90s and to Billy Bob Thornton for three years, divorcing in 2003.

Jolie and Pitt are prepping movies. Jolie's second directorial effort, the World War II odyssey "Unbroken," will be released in December. Pitt stars in the upcoming World War II drama "Fury," due out Oct. 17.



AP file

**Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt married Aug. 23 in France, according to a spokesman for the couple.**



E! Television/AP

**From left, Elizabeth Hurley as Queen Helena, the Queen of England, William Moseley and Vincent Regan are currently filming the new television series "The Royals." The show is expected to air in early 2015.**

By HILARY FOX  
The Associated Press

**M**ove over Helen Mirren, there's a new queen in town — Elizabeth Hurley. The English actress is on the British throne for new E! drama series "The Royals," playing the fictional Queen Helena, a sharply dressed mother of three grooming her son to be king and dealing with public opinion.

It's the E! Channel's first foray out of reality TV into scripted drama. Hurley reckons fans of "Gossip Girl" and "Dynasty" will enjoy the decadent lifestyles of these tabloid-friendly royals.

Talking recently with The Associated Press on the set in east London, Hurley was in glittering jewels and a cream ball gown on the royal private jet — a hint of how the show will focus on lavish parties, international summits and secret romances.

"There's no correlation at all between Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and my Queen Helena," Hurley explained. "If Princess Diana, for example, had become queen of England, that would be a more

similar age group."

Hurley, in fact, claimed that real royalty have it easier than celebrities. "The royal family have a lot more privacy behind their closed doors than other actors or politicians have because we don't have the resources that they have to keep us private," she noted.

William Moseley, best known for playing Peter in "The Chronicles of Narnia" films, takes on the role of Prince Liam — the second son thrown into the spotlight after the death of his brother. Australian actress Alexandra Park stars as the wild Princess Eleanor and Merritt Patterson as Liam's American love interest.

"It's like (if) Prince Harry was thrown into being the next King of England," Moseley explained.

Moseley has met the queen and her husband Prince Philip at galas for the "Narnia" films and he's not too worried about them disliking the show.

"If they tune in and they want to watch it and they like it, good for them. If they never want to speak to any of us ever again, well, that's that. So, who cares?" he said.

## Iowa farmer is new 'Bachelor'

ABC has chosen its next "Bachelor" Chris Soules, who came in third last season on "The Bachelorette," will look for love among 25 women vying for his heart. His selection was announced Wednesday on "Good Morning America."

The 32-year-old Iowa farmer said he was "humbled, flattered and grateful" to be selected.

"My focus is gonna be to make the girls that are on the show as

comfortable as possible," he said. "The Bachelor" features a single guy who goes on a series of dates to choose a potential bride. ABC seemed to want to involve the fans in its decision for the upcoming season. For weeks, executive producer Mike Fleiss teased viewers on Twitter about who would become the next "Bachelor."

From The Associated Press

## Sawyer exits as ABC's evening news anchor

The Associated Press

Diane Sawyer signed off as anchor of ABC's "World News" on Wednesday, telling viewers that it has been wonderful to be the "home port" of the network's news team each weeknight.

She will be replaced next week by David Muir. The 68-year-old Sawyer, one of television news' best-known personalities, has anchored ABC's flagship newscast since December 2009.

While it's been known for months that this was Sawyer's last week as anchor, it wasn't until she tweeted earlier Wednesday that it became clear she wasn't anchoring on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday's newscast, she chatted briefly on the set with Muir and took viewers on a behind-the-scenes tour pointing out people who worked at "World News."

"It has been wonderful to be the home port for the brave and brilliant forces of ABC News around the world and to feel every single night that you and I were in a conversation about the day together," she said.

Sawyer isn't retiring. She said Wednesday that she will move "down the hall and up the stairs" to a reporting job.

### Source: BET suspends producer after joke

BET has suspended a producer after a joke about Beyonce and Jay Z's daughter that aired Monday on the network's music video countdown show, "106 & Park."

A source at BET, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed to discuss the matter publicly, said the producer was suspended after a remark about 2-year-old Blue Ivy's hair.

On Monday's show during a segment about Blue Ivy's hypothetical thoughts during Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, guest host Karuche Tran said: "I really did wake up like this, because my parents never comb my hair." Blue Ivy joined her mother onstage at the VMAs.

Stephen Hill, BET's president of music programming and specials, apologized on Twitter. Hill also said the network privately apologized to Beyonce and Jay Z.



ABC/AP

**The staff gathers at ABC News headquarters for Diane Sawyer, left, who signed off on her last broadcast as anchor of "World News" on Wednesday.**

### Gun company cuts ties with reality TV star

A firearms company affiliated with reality TV star Will Hayden is distancing itself from him after his arrest on rape charges.

In a statement on its website, Red Jacket Firearms LLC says it has legally separated from Hayden. The Baton Rouge-based company says it will remain in business.

The Discovery Channel canceled "Sons of Guns" after Hayden's arrest on Tuesday. Discovery says it killed the show due to "the serious and horrific nature of the charges" against Hayden. The show featured Hayden and his firearms business.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office says Hayden was arrested on aggravated rape charges involving a child.

### Other news

■ California prosecutors say Young Jeezy has pleaded not guilty to possessing an illegal assault weapon during an investigation into a fatal shooting at a rap concert. A spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney says the rapper, real name Jay Wayne Jenkins, entered his plea to the felony charge Tuesday. Jeezy remains jailed on bail. He's due back in court Sept. 5.

■ A former child model can dismiss his lawsuit that accused "X-Men" director Bryan Singer of sex abuse in Hawaii, but he has the option to re-file it later, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.



ABC/AP

**Chris Soules will star in the next edition of the reality series "The Bachelor."**

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## 2 men sue taxi company over kiss

**IL** CHICAGO — Two Chicago men sued a taxi company this week, alleging a driver tried to kiss them out of his cab because they shared a short kiss.

Matthew McCrea and Steven White claim the driver violated the Illinois Human Rights Act and are seeking an undisclosed amount in damages.

The lawsuit contends McCrea gave White, his boyfriend, a one-second-long kiss during a ride from the airport, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The men said the driver then pulled over on the expressway and ordered them out.

"I told them to stop," the driver said. "It was raining. I couldn't drive with something like that. I have to drive safely because it's raining."

## Court: Workers' comp OK'd for kickball injury

**SC** COLUMBIA — Have you ever been hurt in a company softball or kickball game? The South Carolina Supreme Court says you may be entitled to workers' compensation.

The court ruled Wednesday that Stephen Whigham, who was injured in a company kickball game, is entitled to workers' compensation benefits because he was required to attend the game as part of his job.

Whigham worked for Jackson Dawson Communications, a public relations firm. He organized a kickball game as a team-building event for employees. During a game, he shattered two bones in his leg trying to avoid a tag and ultimately needed a knee replacement.

## Bud Light to take over its 'Whatever' town

**CO** DENVER — Some people in mountainous laid-back Crested Butte are not up for "Whatever" — a secretive Bud Light plan to paint their mountain town blue and turn it into a fantasy town for an online and television ad campaign.

The company has agreed to pay the town \$250,000 to fence off its main street and bring in more than 1,000 revelers to the town of 1,500 for the Sept. 5-7 event being promoted on social media, The Denver Post reported.

Secrecy has been part of the "Are you up for Whatever?" campaign from its beginning at last year's Super Bowl. Word began leaking out recently as outsiders showed up with measuring tapes and checklists, telling locals they couldn't talk about what they were doing and booking lots of hotel rooms.

## Cops called after fliers fight over seat recline

**NY** NEW YORK — Airline passengers have come to expect a tiny escape from the confined space of today's packed planes: the ability to recline their seat a few inches. When one passenger was denied that bit of personal space Sunday, it led to a full-on argument and the unscheduled landing of their plane,

## THE CENSUS

# \$49,637

The amount for which a 32-year-old former inmate is suing the state of Oregon, claiming he injured his knee while climbing down from his prison bunk bed. Mitchell Ray Johnston claims the department was negligent in failing to provide ladders or another safe way for inmates to climb on and off bunks at the Columbia River Correctional Institution in Northeast Portland. Ore. Johnston, of Beaverton, was serving an 18-month sentence at the 595-bed minimum security prison for credit card fraud.



AP photos



## Surf's up – big time

**Above:** A boogie-boarder rides a wave at The Wedge in Newport Beach, Calif., on Wednesday as southern California experienced much higher than normal surf, brought on by Hurricane Marie spinning off the coast of Mexico.

**Left:** Cece, left, and Jennifer, of Orange County, Calif., run from waves at Venice Beach, Calif., on Tuesday.

just halfway to its destination.

The fight started on a United Airlines flight because one passenger was using the Knee Defender, a \$21.95 gadget that attaches to a passenger's tray table and prevents the person in front of them from reclining.

## Police ID man accused in stabbing of K-9

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — Authorities have identified the man accused of fatally stabbing an Oklahoma City police dog before he was shot to death by the dog's handler.

Police said Tuesday that Mark Salazar, 22, of Blue Mound, Texas, stabbed a police dog named Kye, then was shot to death Sunday by the dog's handler. The 3-year-old German shepherd died Monday of a heart attack after undergoing emergency surgery.

Police said the dog was deployed after a high-speed police chase through two counties.

## Reward offered in theft at Rosa Parks' home

**AL** MONTGOMERY — CrimeStoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information about thefts that heavily damaged the Montgomery apartment complex where Rosa Parks lived when she refused to give up her seat to a white person on a city bus.

CrimeStoppers Director Tony Garrett told The Montgomery Advertiser that officials think someone probably saw copper items being taken from the apartments, which are under renovation.

## Baby left in trash can is in critical condition

**UT** KEARNS — A newborn girl was fighting for her life a day after Utah police say her mother dumped her in a neighbor's trash can, an act the woman's parents said Wednesday

that she didn't fully comprehend.

The 2-day-old girl was on a ventilator and in critical condition in a hospital, Unified Police Detective Jared Richardson said. The girl's mother, Alicia Marie Englert, 23, was arrested Tuesday night on suspicion of attempted murder.

Her father, Robert Englert, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he's trying to make sure everyone is safe but declined to comment further. Earlier in the day, he told Utah media outlets that his daughter had a learning disability.

## Big Tex to sport new duds at state fair

**TX** DALLAS — Big Tex is getting some new duds that he'll wear to greet some 3 million people who are expected to attend the State Fair of Texas beginning next month.

Fair officials showed off the clothes Tuesday at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. The 55-foot-tall

Big Tex will get a navy blue shirt to replace a white one he wore last year. He'll wear blue denim pants with a Dickies belt buckle. A 95-gallon hat will sit atop his head.

## City asks judge to dismiss stun gun suit

**SD** PIERRE — Pierre officials want a judge to dismiss a federal lawsuit claiming excessive use of force by a police officer who shot an 8-year-old girl with a stun gun.

The response filed by the city, its former police chief and four officers says they are immune from being sued. It also denies that police used excessive force.

Authorities said the officer shot the girl with the stun gun last October because she was suicidal and brandished a knife. The state Division of Criminal Investigation later concluded that using the Taser on the girl was the safest method to defuse the situation.

From wire reports

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Survey: US pessimism on economy up

By Josh Boak  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are more anxious about the economy now than they were right after the Great Recession ended despite stock market gains, falling unemployment and growth moving closer to full health.

Seventy-one percent of Americans say they think the recession exerted a permanent drag on the economy, a survey by

being released Thursday by Rutgers University. By contrast, in November 2009, five months after the recession officially ended, the Rutgers researchers found that only 49 percent thought the downturn would have lasting damage.

And that was when the unemployment rate was 9.9 percent, compared with the current 6.2 percent.

"They're more negative than they were five years ago," said Rutgers public policy professor

Carl Van Horn.

The slow pace of improvement during most of the recovery, now in its sixth year, has eroded confidence and slowed a return to the pay levels that many enjoyed before the economy suffered its worst collapse since the 1930s. About 42 percent of those surveyed say they have less pay and savings than before the recession began in late 2007. Just 7 percent say they're significantly better off.

The survey results dovetail with estimates that the median household income was \$53,891 in June, according to Sentier Research. That's down from an inflation-adjusted \$56,604 at the start of the recession.

Each year of subpar growth has compounded the anxieties of many Americans. In contrast to the robust snapbacks that coincided with most economic rebounds, this recovery proved tepid well after the recession had ended.

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.757	\$3.938	\$4.103	\$4.124
Change in price	-1.8 cents	-1.8 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.4 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.731	\$5.012	\$4.894
Change in price	---	-6.1 cents	-6.5 cents	-10.9 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.908	\$4.082	\$4.094
Change in price	---	-1.8 cents	-0.7 cents	-1.4 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.049	---
Change in price	---	---	-1.6 cents	---
Turkey	---	\$3.980	\$4.180	\$4.240
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Italy	---	---	\$4.263	\$4.993
Change in price	---	---	+1.5 cents	no change
Italy	\$4.180	---	---	---
Change in price	no change	---	---	no change

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.789	---	\$3.889
Change in price	---	-1.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.599	---	\$3.809	---
Change in price	no change	---	-1.0 cents	---
South Korea	\$3.579	---	\$3.929	\$3.949
Change in price	-2.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents	---
Guam	\$3.569**	\$3.729	\$3.919	---
Change in price	-2.0 cents	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents	---

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Aug. 30-Sep. 5

### MARKET WATCH

Aug. 27, 2014

Dow Jones	15,311
Industrials	17,122.01
Nasdaq composite	4,569.62
Standard & Poor's 500	2,000.12
Russell 2000	-2.46
	1,172.71

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 29)	\$1.3532
Dollar buys (Aug. 29)	€0.7390
British pound (Aug. 29)	\$1.70
Japanese yen (Aug. 29)	101.00
South Korean won (Aug. 29)	988.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6580/6.6031
Canada (dollar)	1.0858
China (Yuan)	6.1428
Denmark (Krone)	5.6582
Egypt (Pound)	1.1515
Euro	\$1.3170/7.5930
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7502
Hungary (Forint)	239.60
Israel (Shekel)	3.5684
Japan (Yen)	101.06
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2845
Norway (Krone)	6.1890
Philippines (Peso)	43.70
Poland (Zloty)	3.272
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2490
South Korea (Won)	1,016.19
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9153
Thailand (Baht)	31.95
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1600

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates provided for reference when buying currency, all figures are foreign currencies to the pound, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	8.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.10

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



### Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo						
Able, Tex.	91	71	Ork	Chattanooga	94	67	Pcid	Fort Wayne	85	64	Cidy	Louisville	92	72	Pcid	Pocatello	85	55	Pcid	Sioux City	78	66	Cidy
Akron, Ohio	82	54	Cidy	Cheney	79	50	Pcid	Fresno	99	66	Pcid	Lubbock	91	66	Cidy	Portland, Maine	71	52	Pcid	Sioux Falls	80	63	Cidy
Albany, N.Y.	75	52	Cir	Chicago	86	68	Cidy	Goodland	84	58	Pcid	Macon	95	65	Pcid	Portland, Ore.	76	61	Pcid	South Bend	84	67	Cidy
Albuquerque	85	60	Pcid	Cincinnati	89	65	Pcid	Grand Junction	82	54	Cir	Madison	83	63	Cidy	Providence	75	58	Cir	Spartanburg	81	59	Pcid
Allentown, Pa.	79	52	Cir	Cleveland	83	57	Cid	Great Rapids	79	62	Rain	Medford	92	60	Pcid	Pueblo	82	54	Pcid	Springfield, Ill.	88	71	Pcid
Anchorage	60	50	Cidy	Colorado Springs	78	52	Pcid	Greensboro, N.C.	80	55	Pcid	Memphis	94	73	Cidy	Raleigh-Durham	92	69	Cidy	Springfield, Mo.	87	70	Rain
Asheville	87	63	Pcid	Columbia, S.C.	84	67	Cir	Green Bay	77	60	Rain	Miami Beach	90	79	Cidy	Rapid City	85	57	Pcid	St. Louis	82	61	Cidy
Austin	93	69	Pcid	Columbus, Ga.	95	68	Pcid	Hartford	89	66	Pcid	Milwaukee	83	65	Cidy	Reno	91	61	Pcid	Tallahassee	95	70	Cidy
Atlantic City	79	58	Pcid	Concord, N.H.	83	78	Cid	Harrisburg	80	56	Pcid	Missoula	83	65	Cidy	Richmond	86	66	Pcid	Tampa	92	78	Cidy
Austin	93	69	Pcid	Columbus, Ohio	92	77	Cidy	Honolulu	91	75	Pcid	Missoula	83	65	Cidy	Roanoke	86	63	Cidy	Wichita	81	74	Cidy
Baltimore	82	59	Pcid	Dallas-Ft. Worth	92	77	Cidy	Honolulu	91	75	Pcid	Mobile	89	71	Rain	Rochester	73	51	Pcid	Wichita Falls	81	74	Cidy
Baton Rouge	82	74	Cidy	Dayton	86	64	Pcid	Houston	91	77	Rain	Montgomery	95	70	Cir	Sacramento	89	62	Pcid	Tucson	99	73	Cir
Bilings	81	59	Pcid	Dayton	86	64	Pcid	Huntsville	94	66	Cir	Nashville	94	72	Cir	St. Louis	90	76	Pcid	Tulsa	87	73	Rain
Birmingham	94	70	Cir	Denver	81	56	Cir	Indianapolis	88	68	Cidy	New Orleans	81	78	Cir	St. Petersburg	82	81	Cir	Tulsa	87	73	Rain
Boise	82	62	Cir	Des Moines	84	67	Rain	Jacksonville	95	71	Cidy	New York City	79	60	Cir	St. Thomas	89	80	Cir	Waco	93	76	Cidy
Boston	72	59	Cir	Detroit	80	59	Cir	Juneau	59	46	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	83	71	Pcid	Salt Lake City	88	69	Cir	Wilmington	85	65	Pcid
Bridgport	76	59	Cir	El Paso	93	68	Cir	Kansas City	85	70	Rain	North Platte	83	71	Pcid	San Antonio	93	72	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Brownsville	95	79	Cidy	Elkins	84	53	Cidy	Key West	91	83	Cidy	Oklahoma City	89	71	Rain	San Diego	78	69	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Buffalo	76	52	Cidy	Erie	76	55	Cidy	Knoxville	92	67	Pcid	Omaha	80	68	Cir	San Francisco	73	60	Cidy	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Burlington, Vt.	75	51	Cidy	Evansville	82	55	Cidy	La Crosse	89	76	Cidy	Orlando	95	76	Cir	San Jose	81	72	Pcid	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Caribou, Maine	71	46	Cir	Fargo	91	69	Pcid	Las Vegas	103	78	Cir	Pendleton	83	56	Pcid	Seattle	70	59	Cidy	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Charleston, S.C.	92	67	Cir	Flagstaff	79	48	Cir	Lincoln	81	67	Cidy	Philadelphia	81	62	Pcid	Seattle	70	59	Cidy	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Charlotte, N.C.	82	50	Pcid	Flint	82	57	Cidy	Little Rock	93	74	Cir	Phoenix	107	80	Cir	Seattle	70	59	Cidy	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid
Charlotte, N.C.	82	50	Pcid	Fort Smith	88	73	Rain	Los Angeles	87	68	Pcid	Pittsburgh	84	54	Cidy	Shreveport	92	75	Cidy	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcid

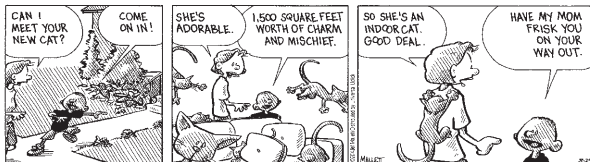
National temperature extremes

Hi: 122, 122, Death Valley, Calif.  
Lo: -80, -80, Verkhne, Russia

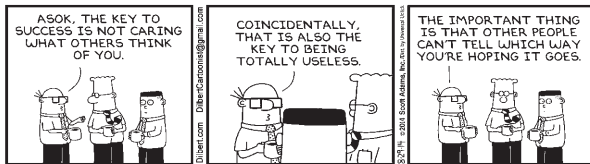
National temperature extremes  
Hi: Wed., 112, Death Valley, Calif.  
Lo: Wed., 25, Bodie State Park, Calif.



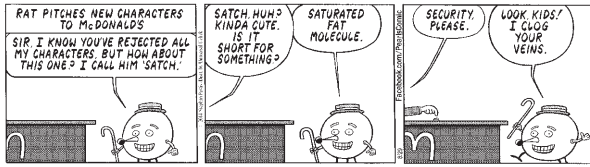
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearly Before Swine



Non Sequitur



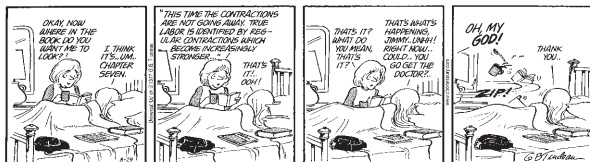
Candorville



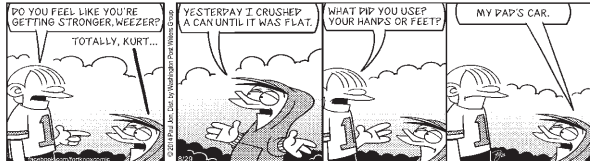
Get Fuzzy



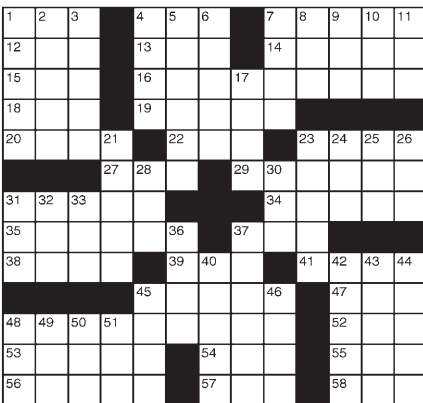
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



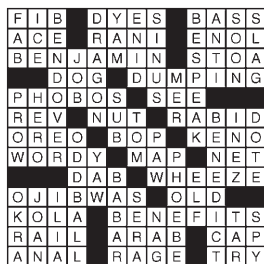
## ACROSS

- Pump up the sound
- Water barrier
- Martin or Harvey
- Green cross
- External
- Stick with a kick
- Recite verb forms
- Blackbird
- Descend rapidly
- McNally partner
- Baseball stat
- Somewhere out there
- Toss in
- Cancel out
- Overturn
- "Psycho" psycho
- Official emissary
- G-men's org.
- New Mexico art colony
- CEO's deg.
- Egg container
- Poolroom supply
- Ultra-modernist
- Spread, as ideas
- Cistern
- Kidney-related
- Red or black
- Bullring bravo
- Not merely plump
- Goof up
- Doctrine

## DOWN

- Oil of roses
- Food from heaven
- Russian bigwig
- Medical types
- Acknowledged
- Estate house
- First course, often
- Yank
- Greek H
- Examine
- Before
- Writer Didion
- Carvey and Delany
- Once more
- Adipose tissue
- Consumed
- Dos' neighbors
- Banned bug killer
- Recede
- Last (Abbr.)
- "Once Upon a Mattress" prop
- Swelled head
- Online publication
- Hesitate
- World-weary
- Poem-ending stanza
- Makes airtight
- Clan emblem
- Hay block
- Burn somewhat
- Expert
- CSA soldier
- Inseparable
- de deus

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-29

## CRYPTOQUIP

QXD WXQA YMWYJ MHXMD S

EMJR DANNKMJ NTMIYIDMQWN.

K TDYNAEY WUYR UMS WX

AWKPKFY NXRAF-HYMNJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY BOY IS GETTING BRACES ON HIS TEETH TO PULL THEM CLOSER TOGETHER. IT'S A STOP-GAP MEASURE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

## STARS AND STRIPES

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## OPINION

## Isolate, don't target, Islamic State leader

By CLINT HINOTE

The Islamic State has been wounded. While the execution of reporter James Foley by the group's depravity, its timing also suggests that recent counterattacks are having a significant effect on its leadership. The group's expansion has been slowed, and some of its territorial gains have been rolled back. Iraqi and Kurdish forces, aided by U.S. airstrikes, secured a much-needed strategic "win" in retaking the Mosul Dam. Are there other ways to use this force mix to weaken the Islamic State and buy time for the Iraqis to regroup?

In 2006, the United States leveraged a similar set of capabilities and alliances to eliminate Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq. Using a combination of human intelligence and airborne surveillance, the U.S. found al-Zarqawi and killed him. At the time, this was thought to be a major blow to al-Qaida in Iraq that would do much to reduce the violence being inflicted upon Iraq's Shiite population.

There is an enduring allure to the idea of capturing or killing an enemy leader. In chess, if you capture the king, you win the game. Many assume the same holds true in the real world. Given the capabilities in place and the pressing need to weaken the Islamic State, U.S. leaders are surely asking themselves whether they should target the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

At first glance, the answer would appear to be yes. Like any organization that must operate amid the pressures of combat, the Islamic State needs strong leadership. In fact, the group appears to enjoy effective leadership at multiple levels, as evidenced by its adaptability, rapid response to strategic messaging and battlefield tactics that combine patience and boldness.

It is reasonable to think that attacking the group's top leader would weaken the organization, perhaps decisively.

Killing or capturing such a leader has rarely been decisive, however. While there have been instances where such action induced a form of organizational paralysis, it has also proven counterproductive. When Saddam Hussein prioritized hiding over leading Iraq when his country was invaded in 2003, the Baath government was paralyzed, yet dangerous elements remained and reorganized themselves into a more menacing threat.

In determining what to do about al-Baghdadi, here are some key questions:

**What is the role of al-Baghdadi and other leaders within the Islamic State?** The effect of attacking an enemy leader is roughly congruent with that leader's role. Disrupting a tactical leader can shock and paralyze a small unit, but this effect quickly fades once the unit reorganizes. In contrast, killing or capturing a strategic leader in Iraq, but al-Zarqawi removed widespread honor as a martyr. Given that the Islamic State appears to exhibit tremendous skill at strategic communication, the United States needs to be cautious.

**How is the Islamic State structured?** Some organizations are naturally more vulnerable to an attack on their leadership, such as the military. Iraq, but al-Zarqawi removed, require large amounts of communication and rely on centralized control. The

Islamic State has a distributed structure, so it may be more effective to target the middle layers of leadership — where most communication takes place — than to spend resources attempting to find al-Baghdadi.

That leads to a third question: **Is there sufficient intelligence to target al-Baghdadi?** This is often the limiting factor in leadership attacks, which require reliable information that can be difficult to get. Success usually involves a large and persistent effort, combined with some luck.

Perhaps most important, one cannot divorce these military questions from the overall goal. If the goal is to paralyze an organization, then attack its leaders at all levels, as quickly as possible. Alternatively, if there is a possibility of dialogue — repellent as that may be — then attacking leaders can be counterproductive. A leaderless organization cannot be coerced, but its components can still cause pain.

While classical details might change the analysis, the available information indicates that al-Baghdadi is an inspirational leader who is not involved directly in battlefield tactics. Considering this, disrupting al-Baghdadi's leadership is not likely to be worth the cost in precious intelligence resources. Better to use those to identify and disrupt the Islamic State's middle layers, where strategic direction is translated into tactical action. A focused and sustained effort to damage this part of the organization, therefore, would have significant — perhaps paralyzing — effects on the battlefield, further blunting its advance and buying time for Iraqis to meet this dangerous challenge.

Clint Hinote, a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, is a 2014 Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. The views expressed in this column, which first appeared in The Washington Post, are his own.

## Attack ads can help keep candidates honest

By PETER H. SCHUCK

NEGATIVE campaign ads appear to be on the rise with the approach of this fall's congressional elections and the 2016 presidential campaign. Hardly anyone has a good word to say about them. The standard critique — that they demean our democracy, deceive voters and cause disgusted voters to stay home on Election Day — has the ring of truth. But this exaggerates the negative about negative ads while obscuring their benefits.

Listening to the critics, one would assume that almost every political ad is an attack ad. In fact, a 2007 synthesis of studies published in the Journal of Politics found that fewer than 40 percent of all campaign messages targeted an opponent, and more recent studies found that most negative messages come from interest groups, not the candidates and parties.

While we might not like the tone of negative ads, and some are misleading (as are some positive ads), they do tend to highlight candidates' inconsistencies, character flaws and past misdeeds. They also provide useful information to the undecided voters who determine the outcome of many elections. They also convey relevant information about candidates who sponsor the attacks. Hillary Rodham Clinton's famous "3 a.m." ad from the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, for instance, criticized Barack Obama's relative inexperience while reminding voters of Clinton's longer record.

The line between negative and positive ads also is blurry. Even an ostensibly positive ad emphasizing a candidate's views or attributes strongly implies that the opponent lacks them. If, instead, the ad made

explicit comparisons and emphasized the opponent's negatives, voters might come away better-informed and able to decide among candidates.

In fact, the only ads that should concern us are those that contain lies that voters cannot detect — whether positive or negative. The law itself can't provide an effective remedy for such lies; in June, a unanimous Supreme Court questioned whether states can prohibit false statements about candidates, and politicians can very seldom sue for defamation. Still, attacked candidates have powerful incentives to call out falsehoods swiftly and to assail the character and trustworthiness of those who propagate them. Fears that lies in ads will backfire and repel voters, which many do, surely limit the number of ardent falsehoods.

Half-truths and false innuendo — insinuation rather than outright lies — are more difficult to counter. But again, opponents are vigilant and can respond quickly. Campaigns probably use them more because they are unlitigable issues rather than because they are effective. Everyone knows about George H.W. Bush's use of Willie Horton's story to attack Michael Dukakis and Lyndon Johnson's nuclear-cold ad against Barry Goldwater. But neither ad explains the outcome of those elections. The most insidious, unlitigable campaigning found that, although negative ads are more memorable, they do not shift voters to the attacker or reduce turnout.

Moreover, outrageous attack ads are harder to pull off today than in the days when John Adams' supporters are said to have called Thomas Jefferson "a mean-spirited, low-lived fellow, the son of a half-breed Indian squaw, sired by a Virginia

mulatto father." The saying that "a lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes" is less true now because of the immediate responses and public rebukes enabled by the Internet, vlogger bloggers, quick-response teams employed by wary candidates and combative news organizations.

The result is that most campaign attack ads are on their own, less aggressive and intrusive aspects, unpleasant as those may be, but rather on the ones containing falsehoods that opponents can't correct in time for voters to assess them, learn who is responsible for them and factor this information into their votes. Three remedies might improve the situation.

First, local media should do what some national media do: objectively assess competing claims for accuracy and publish those assessments prominently. Second, foundations — and perhaps even the political parties themselves — should fund private, nonpartisan organizations with reputations for objectivity to do the same. These "truth squad" efforts should accelerate as Election Day approaches and the window for correcting false attacks begins to close. Third, Congress should require, subject to the constraints of the First Amendment's protections of individual and organizational privacy, noncandidate producers of all election ads, negative or positive, to identify themselves and their largest donors.

Attack ads are not pretty, but neither is our robust, competitive democracy. Most important, attack ads don't threaten that democracy. They may even improve it.

Peter H. Schuck, an emeritus professor at Yale Law School, is the author of "Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better." This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

### Elect to give Afghans a chance The New York Times

Afghanistan faces ever deepening security and political crises. As American troops withdraw, Taliban military advances are threatening entire districts, and government coffers are dwindling.

NATO leaders are scheduled to hold a summit meeting next week that is supposed to reaffirm the alliance's commitment to keep supporting Afghanistan's security forces which, like the rest of the government, are heavily dependent on international aid. It will be very hard to justify continued assistance if Afghan politicians are unable to form a government with a new president in Kabul.

Yet, Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, are putting the country's stability at risk in refusing to agree on a winner two months after the disputed election to replace President Hamid Karzai. The emboldened Taliban are taking advantage of the political chaos.

Although Karzai's successor was supposed to have been sworn in on Monday, the country's Independent Election Commission still has not completed a United Nations-supervised audit of 8.1 million disputed ballots. Abdullah won the first-round voting in April, but Ghani came out ahead in a preliminary count after the final round in June, prompting Abdullah to accuse Ghani and Karzai of colluding to rig the vote.

While Ghani and Karzai have denied the charges, few doubt there was substantial fraud. On Sunday, The Times' Carlotta Gall reported that interviews with Afghan and international officials support some of Abdullah's most serious claims, including ballot-box stuffing and a campaign by government officials to manipulate the outcome.

The Americans gave the candidates a way to ease the sting of defeat by brokering a deal that would have the rival camps create a national unity government. Under that plan, which both candidates accepted, the winner would become president and the loser, or his designee, would fill a new post of chief executive. But the powers and duties of that new job are also still in dispute.

A new, stable government is also important to the United States.

[Abdullah pulled in support from the election review Wednesday, arguing it was incapable of identifying the widespread fraud he believes took place.] The best available solution is for Abdullah and Ghani to cooperate fully with the ballot audit, accept the results (which were never going to be fraud-free, given the immaturity of the democratic system) and quickly form a functioning government that reflects the country's diversity. If they manage to do that, there might be some hope that they could, in time, restore voter trust and put Afghanistan on the path to a real democracy.

### Immigration end-run: bad idea The Arizona Republic

Three words for President Barack Obama:

Don't do it.

Don't sign an executive order unilaterally creating faux immigration reform.

Advocates, frustrated by a Congress that through two presidencies has failed to enact reform, are pressing for big and bold action. Such action might be satisfy-



SKIP O'ROURKE, THE TAMPA BAY TIMES/AP

Tampa, Fla., Mayor Bob Buckhorn takes the ALS ice bucket challenge at Water Works Park in Tampa Heights on Aug. 22. The bucket contained 65 gallons of ice and water.

ing for a day or two. But it would set back their cause for years, if not decades. The next Republican president could reverse such an order immediately. Even the pragmatic members of Congress would have no appetite to tackle permanent, comprehensive reform.

And it would ensure that nothing, absolutely nothing, gets done in Washington until the next presidential term office.

Plenty of Democrats, particularly congressional and gubernatorial candidates, are urging the president to refrain. But the White House is sending out signals that, yes, Obama is seriously contemplating taking executive actions, independent of Congress, that conceivably could create a legal status for perhaps millions of undocumented immigrants.

The options reportedly include broadening his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to include the parents of children who came to this country as minors. He could expand the "parole in place" program that allows noncitizens to enter the U.S. for humanitarian reasons. And there are numerous other means to extend de facto legal status to individuals both inside the U.S. now or seeking entry.

Any actions contemplated by the White House that have the impact of altering the legal status of large numbers of people — figures of 5 million or more are being bandied about — are destined to have profound ramifications beyond the immediate, explicit goal of legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants.

Those consequences extend well beyond the issue of immigration itself and into genuine constitutional questions about the limits of presidential authority.

The question of constitutional authority has been debated at the margins in regard to many of Obama's executive orders. Does the U.S. Constitution afford a president the authority to amend an act of Congress in as many ways as Obama has altered the Affordable Care Act? Maybe. Maybe not.

Acting alone to impart legal status to millions of people is a constitutional question more serious by orders of magnitude. The Constitution explicitly gives Congress the power "to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization."

Political cynics suggest Obama may invoke executive authority over immigration law precisely because it would provoke a constitutional furor, and, perhaps, im-

peachment proceedings — an action that turned politically sour for Republicans when they impeached President Bill Clinton. We devoutly hope the president is not so foolish.

This way is folly, Mr. President. Yes, Congress' failure to act is frustrating. But if Obama takes these actions on his own, it would constitute a higher order of failure.

### Islamic State's foes not united Topeka (Kan.) Capital Journal

An Aug. 22 attack on a mosque in Iraq and the subsequent fallout is indicative of the problems the United States, its allies and the Iraqi people will have as they try to eliminate the threat posed by the radical Islamists of the Islamic State.

The Associated Press reported that at least 64 people were killed in the attack on a Sunni mosque, which prompted Sunni lawmakers to withdraw from talks on forming an inclusive government to present a unified front against Islamic extremists.

Sunni lawmakers blamed Shiite militias for the attack, suggesting it was revenge for an earlier bombing. (That says a lot about the internal problems in that country.) However, reports indicate it was unclear whether the incident was the work of Shiites or Islamic State forces. The Islamic radicals haven't been shy about killing other Muslims during their campaign to take over large swaths of Iraq and Syria to form a secure base from which they can export terrorism and their radical religious beliefs to the rest of the world, including the United States.

How can the United States, or anyone, help the Iraqi people defend their country when they can't even get along long enough to defeat a common enemy? It won't be easy, but that is the task facing the U.S., its European allies, Kurdish forces in Iraq and the Iraqi people who can focus on the job at hand.

Success is essential. The Islamic State will only grow in strength with each victory. More recruits will enlist in the cause and the Islamic State's ability to extend its reach far beyond where the fighting is now will be enhanced.

The U.S. is providing air support and weapons to Kurdish forces in Iraq, but President Barack Obama has said he won't put "boots on the ground" (U.S. combat forces) there, which is wise. But Kurdish forces, even with support from the U.S.

and its allies, can't do the job alone. And there is little indication other countries are willing to supply ground forces.

David Ignatius, a columnist with the Washington Post Writers Group, has suggested Obama send retired Gen. David Petraeus and former Ambassador Ryan Crocker to Iraq as his special envoys because of their knowledge of and experience in the country. They would be able to advise all forces facing the Islamic State on the best course of action.

There are no easy answers, but it is easy to see the rest of the world has a stake in the defeat of the Islamic State. It is a situation that clearly demands leadership from somewhere.

### Nation building 2.0 in Iraq? (Florence, Ala.) Times Daily

President Barack Obama has not shown an inclination to use significant military force in Iraq in the wake of the Islamic State's bloody incursions there. Ground troops have disengaged after a long war, leaving only advisers behind to assist training of the thus far ineffective Iraqi army.

But the horrors of the Islamic State's policies in captured areas are such that more than a few surgical airstrikes might become necessary.

Anyone who does not profess a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim faith is subject to heavy taxes, forced conversion or death. Tens of thousands of Christians and people of other faiths have fled before them, seeking shelter in Baghdad or the Kurd-controlled north. The Kurds have been the only force capable of checking the Islamic State, and have carried out rescues of thousands of people trapped by the terrorists.

When the United States went to war with Iraq under the false assumption that Saddam Hussein was harboring "weapons of mass destruction" that could be used on Americans and others, then-President George W. Bush and his administration made an attempt at nation building. It has been less than successful in a region where Western-style democracy is largely unknown, and has suffered even more under a regime that has excluded Sunnis and Kurds.

A new administration in Iraq, headed by Prime Minister-designate Haider Al-Abadi, promises to be inclusive, which would help stem the spread of the Islamic State extremists by uniting the country's factions in a common cause.

### Be both careful and generous (Biloxi, Miss.) Sun Herald

The Ice Bucket Challenge has had quite a ride.

Over the course of a summer it has become an Internet sensation and raised millions (close to \$80 million according to alsa.org) for research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

We are heartened that a country that claims to be as divided as the United States has found a reason to pull together. For that alone, the folks at the ALS Association have earned our gratitude.

Who would have believed that tens of thousands would make videos of themselves as they are hit with ice water from a bucket? It has been marketing genius.

But there is nothing like success to attract critics. Some note that Californians in the middle of a drought can't afford to waste water. We agree. They shouldn't. But you don't have to get wet to donate.

Some disagree for religious reasons with the ALSA's research. OK. Surely there's another worthy cause that could use help.

Finally, some challenge the wariness. The ice water will be enough of a rush without adding any dangerous twists, such as dropping the bucket from high above. And if you have a medical condition that could be aggravated by a sudden drop in temperature, hold the ice water and just donate. But most of all, let's keep this spirit alive.



**x-Tuesday, Sept. 1:** Minnesota at Phoenix

## US OPEN

## Sharapova survives 2nd round in 3 sets

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — A year ago at this time, Maria Sharapova was sitting out the U.S. Open, getting checked by doctors and having tests on the surgically repaired right shoulder that has troubled her off and on.

On Wednesday, Sharapova found herself down by a set and facing a break point early in the second at Flushing Meadows, bothered by the whipping wind, her own off-target strokes and an opponent who wasn't backing down.

As dusk fell and the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights came on, Sharapova came through the way she so often does in the crucible of a third set, beating 95th-ranked Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the Grand Slam tournament she won in 2006, but has missed twice in the past six years.

Sharapova won in part because of her big shots, yes, but also because she had more in the tank when it mattered.

"Overall I felt like in the end I was in much better shape than she was, and I could have played another few sets," Sharapova said. "Mentally that helped me a lot."

It helped that Dulgheru had played one set over the past five weeks because of inflammation in her right wrist, which was operated on in May 2013 and flared up recently.

Dulgheru, though, pointed to Sharapova's grit as a key factor, too.

"The thing is that she's smacking the ball and she's a fighter. ... It can seem that she's down, that she's tired, but she's there," Dulgheru said. "She can get mentally really



JASON DE CROW/AP

**Maria Sharapova returns a shot to Alexandra Dulgheru during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament on Wednesday in Flushing Meadows, N.Y.**

tough. She hangs in there with you until the end."

Sharapova improved to 17-6 in three-setters this season, including four wins in a row that went the distance en route to the title at the French Open in June, her fifth Grand Slam trophy.

"It's really good to get through," said

Sharapova, who faces 2013 Wimbledon runner-up Sabine Lisicki next. "Put yourself in a really tough position, but then you're able to find a way to get back and finish really strong."

She managed to do that on a day that was not easy for some other seeded women in the second round, although No. 19 Venus

Williams, the 2000-01 champion in New York, advanced with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 78th-ranked Timea Bacsinszky at night. That match was followed by Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka's 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (1) victory over 91st-ranked Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil.

As the match stretched past midnight, the third-seeded Wawrinka got into a tiff with a spectator, saying: "Shut up, man! Seriously, shut up."

He's into the third round in New York for the fourth time in five years. He was a semifinalist a year ago.

Williams got to the third round at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2010.

"As the tournament goes on it will get tougher," Williams said.

No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, a finalist at Wimbledon two years ago, became the first man or woman seeded in the top 10 to lose, defeated 6-3, 6-4 by 39th-ranked Peng Shuai of China. And No. 21 Sloane Stephens of the United States had her earliest exit at the U.S. Open, eliminated 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 by 96th-ranked Johanna Larsson of Sweden.

Stephens was largely her own undoing, compiling a whopping 63 unforced errors. After three days of action, the men's tournament has yet to have a significant surprise, and the only seeded players to lose Wednesday were No. 20 Santiago Giraldo of Colombia and No. 37 Jeramy Chardy of France.

The man who beat Chardy, 92nd-ranked Ilija Kovic of Slovenia, now faces Wawrinka.

Otherwise, No. 6 Tomas Berdych, No. 7 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 14 Marin Cilic were among those advancing.

## Four years later, Venus reaches third round

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Two-time champion Venus Williams is back in the third round of the U.S. Open for the first time since 2010, a year before she announced she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease.

The 19th-seeded Williams, at 34 the oldest woman left in the draw, did not need to deal with too much trouble while beating 78th-ranked Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland 6-1, 6-4 Wednesday night.

Well, now I'm happy. I won a match

again. Finally I did something I couldn't do the last couple years," Williams said. "That's good stuff."

She showed bits and pieces of the type of game that once lifted her to the top of the sport — the No. 1 ranking and seven Grand Slam singles titles, including at Flushing Meadows in 2000 and 2001.

Against Bacsinszky, Williams saved all four break points she faced, converted 3 of 11 she earned, and avoided too many unforced errors, finishing with 12 fewer than her opponent.

**‘Finally I did something I couldn't do the last couple years. That's good stuff.’**

**Venus Williams**

On reaching 3rd round

"I feel like I'm playing well. I feel like I play my best when my opponent pushes me, really. Once we really start to get into a slugfest, I feel like I really relax. Sometimes I feel like when they aren't pushing me as much, maybe

I'm a little too passive at times," Williams said, ruling her eyes at that last thought.

"But I do feel ... like I can rely on myself to compete really well," she continued. "So that's a good feeling."

For a spot in the fourth round, she will need to get past Italy's Sara Errani, who was the runner-up at the 2012 French Open and also reached the U.S. Open semifinals that year.

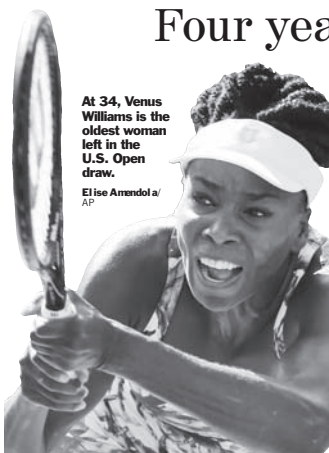
As recently as 2010, Williams made it all the way to the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

But in 2011, she withdrew from the hard-court tournament before she was supposed to play Sabine Lisicki in the second round, saying she had Sjogren's syndrome, a condition that can cause joint pain and sap energy.

The American then lost second-round matches in New York to Angelique Kerber in 2012, and to Zheng Jie last year.

"The last couple years, I fought really hard and I really played red-hot opponents. So it wasn't like I didn't try. My opponents, they played so well. Sometimes you don't win 'em," Williams said.

"That's why you get up and you live to fight another day," Williams said.



At 34, Venus Williams is the oldest woman left in the U.S. Open draw.

Elise Amendola/AP

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## MLB

# Yankees chase Price in third, blast Tigers

By NOAH TRISTER  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — It was an inning that defied explanation — the New York Yankees banging out hit after hit against one of the best pitchers in baseball.

"Sometimes it just happens. The game doesn't always make sense," manager Joe Girardi said. "He's as good as it gets, and we were able to hit some balls in the holes, and it worked out."

The Yankees chased David Price with nine straight hits in the third inning, beating the Detroit Tigers 8-4 Wednesday night. New York scored all eight of its runs in the third off Price, who had pitched a one-hitter in his previous start.

Jacoby Ellsbury started the barrage, and New York went all the way through the batting order until the 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner was pulled after the ninth hit of the inning.

"I've had bad games before. Not that bad," Price said. "That was probably the worst game I've

## Did you know

David Price is the first pitcher to allow nine straight hits in a



game since Bob Forsch of the Houston Astros gave up nine to the Cincinnati Reds on Aug. 3, 1989.

SOURCE: STATS, Inc.

ever had in my life."

Rookie Shane Greene (4-1) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings, struck out eight and walked one.

The Yankees pulled within 2½ games of Seattle for the second



PAUL SANCIA/AP

**Detroit Tigers shortstop Eugenio Suarez, left, cannot handle the throw as New York Yankees' Jacoby Ellsbury (22) steals second base in the first inning on Wednesday in Detroit. The Yankees won 8-4.**

AL wild card, while Detroit remained a half-game behind the Mariners. The Tigers fell 2½ games behind first-place Kansas

City in the AL Central.

Victor Martinez homered for Detroit.

Price pitched out of jams in the

first and second innings Wednesday, but there was no escaping the third. Ellsbury led off with a single and scored on Derek Jeter's double. Martin Prado added a single, and Mark Teixeira followed with a double that made it 2-0.

New York added five more singles — by Carlos Beltran, Brian McCann, Chase Headley, Brett Gardner and Francisco Cervelli. Not every ball was hit hard, but by the time reliever Blaine Hardy replaced Price, it was 6-0 and the bases were still loaded.

Price (12-10) was the first pitcher who allowed nine straight hits in a game since Houston's Bob Forsch gave up nine against Cincinnati on Aug. 3, 1989, according to STATS.

New York, which began the night tied for 19th in scoring, went 0-for-5 with runners in scoring position in the first two innings. The Yankees had not gotten as many as eight runs in an inning since Sept. 2 last year against the Chicago White Sox.

## Roundup

# Sizemore powers Phils to sweep over Nationals

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Here come the Philadelphia Phillies at home now in the sixth inning on Wednesday against the Washington Nationals in Philadelphia.

Pinch-hitter Grady Sizemore hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth inning, helping the Phillies beat the NL East-leading Washington Nationals 8-4 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Marlon Byrd hit a two-run homer and Jimmy Rollins hit a solo shot to back Kyle Kendrick (7-11). The right-hander allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings.

The last-place Phillies went 7-2 on their best homestand this season.

"We're scoring runs, starting pitching has been good and the bullpen is putting up zeroes," Kendrick said. "Everyone is doing their jobs."

Denard Span was 3-for-4 and fell a triple short of the cycle for the Nationals. Doug Fister (12-5) allowed a season-high 10 hits and five runs — four earned — in 5½ innings.

The Nationals had won 12 of 13 before losing three in a row in Philadelphia. They still have the best record (75-57) in the NL and a comfortable 6½-game lead over Atlanta in the division.

"We always have the same approach, win or lose," Nationals manager Matt Williams said. "We look forward to the next one. We know if we do things correctly, we have a good chance to beat the other team."

Byrd started Philadelphia's rally in the sixth with a leadoff single. Dioner Brown lined an RBI double to right-center to cut the deficit to 4-3. Two outs later,



MATT SLOCUM/AP

**The Philadelphia Phillies' Grady Sizemore, left, celebrates with Jimmy Rollins after Sizemore's two-run home run in the sixth inning on Wednesday against the Washington Nationals in Philadelphia.**

Sizemore drove an 0-2 pitch into the right-field seats for a 5-4 lead and his first career pinch homer.

"I fell behind, just trying to put a good swing on it," Sizemore said. "With two strikes, just looking to battle and protect."

Fister left after hitting the next batter, Ben Revere, with an 89 mph fastball on his right arm. Revere went down in pain, but stayed in the game.

Byrd connected off Ross Detwiler in the seventh for his team-high 24th homer.

The Nationals took a 3-2 lead in the third when Jayson Werth singled in Span, who led off the inning with a double.

Span ripped a 427-foot homer

off the railing in the second deck to make it 4-2 in the fifth. It was Span's second homer this season in his 512th at-bat.

Rollins hit a towering drive into the right field seats for his 17th homer to cut it to 2-1 in the first. Chase Utley followed with a single to center. He scored when Span misplayed Ryan Howard's single. The ball rolled past Span for an error and Howard ended up on second.

Howard added an RBI single in the eighth, finishing 3-for-5.

**Pirates 3, Cardinals 1:** Ike Davis hit a two-run homer off a speaker above the seats in right-center field. Jeff Locke outpitched Adam Wainwright as host Pitts-

burgh beat St. Louis.

**Rangers 12, Mariners 4:** Rounold Odor hit a third-inning grand slam to back Colby Lewis as last-place Texas beat up on host Seattle.

**Rays 3, Orioles 1:** Drew Smyly allowed two hits over seven innings in his second straight overpowering performance as visiting Tampa Bay beat AL East-leading Baltimore.

**Royals 6, Twins 1:** Nori Aoki drove in the go-ahead run during a six-run eighth inning as host Kansas City blasted Minnesota.

**Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 2:** Pinch-hitter Danny Valencia had a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning to lead host Toron-

to over Boston.

**Braves 3, Mets 2:** Jason Heyward hit a leadoff home run off Zack Wheeler and Julio Teheran won his third straight start as visiting Atlanta topped New York.

**Reds 7, Cubs 5:** Skip Schumaker drove in a pair of runs with a double and a single and Cincinnati withstood Jorge Soler's first at-bat homer and his RBI single for visiting Chicago.

**White Sox 3, Indians 2:** Rookie Jose Abreu hit a pair of run-scoring singles against Cleveland ace Corey Kluber as host Chicago stopped a season-high, seven-game losing streak.

**Athletics 5, Astros 4:** Sam Fuld hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the ninth inning to propel visiting Oakland over Houston.

**Angels 6, Marlins 1:** Mike Trout tied a career high with his 30th home run and Gordon Beckham homered for the first time with his new club to lead host Los Angeles to a rout over Miami.

**Giants 4, Rockies 2:** San Francisco catcher Buster Posey blasted a game-ending two-run shot for his third homer in two nights, sending the Giants to Bruce Bochy's 1,600th managerial victory with a win over visiting Colorado.

**Padres 3, Brewers 2:** Rene Rivera tied the game with a home run in the ninth inning, then won it with an RBI single in the 10th as host San Diego tripped Milwaukee.

**Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 1:** Clayton Kershaw (16-3) allowed only an unearned run in eight innings to become the first 16-game winner in the majors as visiting Los Angeles topped Arizona.

NFL

# Rise in penalties becomes touchy subject

## Increase in flags during the preseason is making defenders wary of contact

By HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

A subtle change to the NFL rulebook resulted in an 822 percent increase in illegal contact penalties through three weeks of the preseason.

Now the key question is not whether those calls will continue to rise in the regular season, because NFL Vice President of Officiating Dean Blandino is sure they will. He also says that's a good thing.

"We don't think this is a mistake at all," Blandino said. "It's going to provide more consistent officiating, and ultimately that's what everyone wants."

What fans, coaches and defenders want to know is: Just how often will flags fly when games come next week? Just how much will cornerbacks, safeties and linebackers need to keep their hands to themselves?

"When you have world-class athletes out there running routes, it's kind of hard not to put your hand on them," Kansas City linebacker Derrick Johnson said. "You have to practice the new technique and get away with what we can."

Heading into Thursday's final exhibition games, the jumps from the 2013 preseason for three particular penalties were striking:

- 83 for illegal contact, up from nine;

- 137 for defensive holding, up from 28;

- 99 for illegal use of hands, up from 22.

"The officials," New Orleans coach Sean Payton said, "are trying to make a point."

In last season's "Official Playing Rules of the National Football League," Rule 8, Section 4, Article 3 states: "If the receiver attempts to evade the defender, the defender cannot initiate contact that redirects, restricts, or impedes the receiver in any way."

New wording for 2014 focuses on a disadvantage for the receiver," said Mike Pereira, Blandino's predecessor in charge of officials. "So it basically is just about 'contact' or 'no contact.'"

"It now takes away any notion of whether that contact created an advantage for the defense or a disadvantage for the receiver," said Mike Pereira, Blandino's predecessor in charge of officials. "So it basically is just about 'contact' or 'no contact.'"

During the NFL's annual officiating clinic in July, Blandino discussed an "emphasis" on illegal contact and said: "(If) it's five plays in a row, call it five plays in a row."

Blandino told the league's nearly 120 game officials that defensive holding also would be a "big point of emphasis."

Pereira recalled a similar "emphasis" in 2004. Illegal contact calls went from 76 the previ-

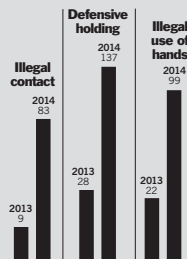


DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Roddy White (84) watches a penalty flag thrown by back judge Tony Steratore against the Tennessee Titans during the first half of their preseason game on Saturday. There has been a jump in the number of penalties called for illegal contact, defensive holding and illegal use of hands in preseason games this year.

### Dirty laundry

Heading into Thursday's final exhibition games, the jumps from the 2013 preseason for three particular penalties were striking:



Source: The Associated Press

ous season to 190, according to STATS.

"I understood it at the time, because defense was starting to dominate in the early 2000s, and so it was a way to kind of balance the ledger a bit," Pereira

### 'The officials are trying to make a point.'

Sean Payton

New Orleans Saints coach

said. "You can't say it's the same thing here."

Not at all. Last season's games averaged 46.8 points, breaking a record that stood since 1948, along with 697 total net yards and 471.2 net passing yards — also all-time highs.

While defensive holding flags already were increasing — from 132 in 2009, to 222 in 2013 — illegal contact trended down. Only 54 were called last season, down from 81 in 2012, and from 130 in 2009.

"The feeling was, the last couple of years, this area has been under-officiated. There's been a lot of gray area," Blandino said. "The number of fouls has been down, and I don't think anybody's uncomfortable with getting more to those kind of historic levels."

Some wonder if this is a way to further inflate the offensive

stats that fuel fantasy football. Of course, receivers and quarterbacks won't get credit for penalty yardage.

Some players insist it's a reaction to the success of Super Bowl champion Seattle's physical "Legion of Boom" secondary ("They got their ring, they did it their way, and we've got to all pay the consequences," Washington cornerback DeAngelo Hall said). Some say it's an attempt to help Peyton Manning, whose Broncos were dominated by the Seahawks in the title game.

"I'm sure that perception is out there. This isn't about one particular team," Blandino said. "It's not about helping the offense."

Noting that offensive pass interference calls are up this season (from 17 to 43 through three weeks), he added: "We don't want the offense to try to think

that this is a ticket to be able to try to draw fouls."

In the first 1½ quarters of an exhibition game between Washington and Cleveland, there were eight penalties called for illegal contact, defensive holding or offensive pass interference. Two were on Browns cornerback Joe Haden, matched up against receiver DeSean Jackson.

In training camp, Haden's Browns had cornerbacks and safeties wear small boxing gloves — like those in mixed martial arts — to try to avoid clutching receivers' jerseys.

"I was talking to DeSean, and he was like, 'These are bad calls,'" Haden said. "He was saying I wasn't holding him."

Not surprisingly, Washington quarterback Robert Griffin III was not bothered by the extra flags that night.

"Please, Jesus, keep calling 'em," Griffin said, "because it definitely helps us as an offense."

AP Sports Writers Tim Booth in Seattle; Stephen Hawkins in Irving, Texas; Brett Martel in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.; Dave Skretvick in St. Joseph, Mo.; Howard Uman in Foxborough, Mass.; Joseph Uman in Richmond, Va.; and Tom Whittier in Berea, Ohio, contributed to this report.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS

# USC's Shaw suspended for fake rescue tale

## Cornerback lied about injuring ankles saving his drowning nephew

BY GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Josh Shaw has been an exemplary teammate and a valuable leader at Southern California, earning his fellow Trojans' trust and praise after transferring home to help his family two years ago.

His teammates and coaches say they had no reason to doubt the cornerback when he explained his two sprained ankles with an elaborate story about saving his nephew from drowning.

Shaw's tale turned out to be fiction, and USC is left wondering exactly what drove a team captain to such deception.

Shaw confessed Wednesday that he lied to school officials about how he injured his ankles last weekend, retracting his story about jumping off a balcony in a rescue bid.

The school swiftly suspended him from all team activities and acknowledged his heroic tale was "a complete fabrication."

"We are extremely disappointed in Josh," USC coach Steve Sarkisian said. "He let us all down. As I have said, nothing in his background led us to doubt him when he told us of his injuries, nor did anything after our initial vetting of his story."

Shaw is a fifth-year senior who would have been a key starter in USC's defensive secondary. He was expected to play a major role for the 15th-ranked Trojans, who begin their first season under Sarkisian at the Coliseum on Saturday against Fresno State.

Now his college football career could be finished, and his teammates must figure out how to replace a player who willingly

filled any role for the USC defense over the last two years.

"We were pretty shocked," USC defensive linemen Leonard Williams said Wednesday morning. "Josh Shaw is a pretty loyal guy. I would never expect him to make up a story. I would never expect that out of him as a team leader."

After playing his freshman season at Florida, Shaw transferred to USC for the 2012 season, receiving a hardship waiver because he said he needed to assist his ailing father and grandfather with the family landscaping business in his hometown of Palmdale, Calif.

Shaw was a steady influence on the USC defense, playing cornerback and safety while starting 14 games during a tumultuous 2013 campaign that included coach Lane Kiffin's midseason firing. His teammates chose him as a captain for his senior year.

Off the field, Shaw has been equally solid. He earned his coaches' praise for steady leadership and his teammates' respect during a humanitarian trip to Haiti. He completed an internship at a commercial real estate company in the offseason.

Shaw issued a short statement through criminal defense attorney Donald Etra on Wednesday after being suspended.

"On Saturday, August 23, 2014, I injured myself in a fall," Shaw said. "I made up a story about this fall that was untrue. I was wrong not to tell the truth. I apologize to USC for this action on my part. My USC coaches, the USC athletic department and especially Coach Sarkisian have all been supportive of me during my college career and for that, I am very grateful."

Etra didn't respond to a request for further details about the cause of Shaw's injuries, but the attorney told several media outlets that Shaw's injuries didn't involve any criminal activity.

The Los Angeles Police Department has confirmed that a man named Joshua Shaw was mentioned — but not as a suspect — in a report involving a break-in at a downtown apartment building Saturday night. The department has not made the report public.

Shaw's story began to unravel soon after the team captain was lauded for his heroics in a story on the team's website Monday. In the account, Shaw described how he instinctively jumped from a balcony, with no one around, to rescue his struggling 7-year-old nephew, Carter, from a pool.

But callers to the athletic department questioned the story almost immediately, and Sarkisian acknowledged the Trojans' concerns Tuesday morning. Shaw initially stuck to his story, but met with school officials Wednesday to admit his mistake.

"I appreciate that Josh has now admitted that he lied and has apologized," Sarkisian said. "Although this type of behavior is out of character for Josh, it is unacceptable. Honesty and integrity must be at the center of our program. I believe Josh will learn from this. I hope that he will not be dinged by this incident, and that the Trojan Family will accept his apology and support him."

It's unclear whether Shaw could face additional discipline from USC for lying to school officials. A USC spokesperson declined to clarify the school's student conduct policies.



MICHAEL OWEN BAKER, L.A. DAILY NEWS/AP

**USC cornerback Josh Shaw confessed that he lied to school officials about how he sprained his ankles last weekend, retracting his story about jumping off a balcony to save his drowning nephew. The school swiftly suspended him from all football team activities Wednesday.**

conduct policies.

Shaw and the school still haven't acknowledged any connection to the LAPD report from officers who responded to a woman screaming in a downtown apartment complex Saturday.

Officers interviewed several people at the building, and a woman told the police that someone had pried open a window, entered the third-floor apartment and fled, but nothing was taken. The woman also acknowledged "a relationship" with Shaw, according to LAPD Lt. Andy Nieman.

## Briefly

# Jets' Patterson says AWOL claim 'completely false'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dimitri Patterson disputes the New York Jets' version of his mysterious absence.

The suspended cornerback said in a statement to ESPN on Thursday that the Jets' claims that he went missing for 48 hours without notifying the team are "completely false."

Patterson was suspended Tuesday for the rest of the preseason after he left the team, according to the Jets, and went missing last Friday night before the preseason game against the Giants without speaking to anyone in the organization.

Patterson was at meetings, a walkthrough and the pregame meal last Friday, but didn't show for the game later that night at MetLife Stadium. General manager John Idzik said earlier this week that Patterson gave the Jets no warning he would leave the team, and didn't speak to anyone directly until he met with Idzik and coach Rex Ryan on Sunday night at the training facility.

Idzik also said at that time that his head Patterson was OK only on Saturday through agent Drew



MATT DUNHAM/AP

**Manchester United's Wayne Rooney was named captain of the England national soccer team on Thursday.**

Rosenhaus.

"As it relates to my whereabouts and me missing for 48 hours without being seen or heard from me or my representative is completely false," Patterson said in his statement to ESPN's Josina Anderson. "My agent reached out to the Jets organization multiple times several hours prior to Friday night's game. My commitment to the Jets organization and to my teammates has never

been an issue and never will be an issue."

Neither the Jets nor Rosenhaus had any immediate comment regarding Patterson's statement.

Patterson did not disclose any details as to why he was absent, and the Jets have also declined to reveal the cornerback's reasons for leaving the team last week.

Patterson was suspended indefinitely by the Jets on Monday.

## Rooney takes over as England's captain

LONDON — Despite an often tempestuous relationship with fans and past concerns over his temperament, Wayne Rooney has received the symbolically prestigious honor of captaining England.

Taking over the leadership of an inexperienced squad that is recovering from the national team's worst-ever World Cup, Rooney knows the rebuilding process requires unity.

"I hope that I will have the full backing of the fans," Rooney said Thursday. "I am in their type of player and I am on that pitch."

Rooney is no stranger to contro-

versy, though, including indiscretions about his personal life that have left the Manchester United player frustrated and have led to flare-ups.

"He has that baggage with him," England coach Roy Hodgson said. "And he will have to accept that as a further part of the pressure."

The appointment was no surprise. Goalkeeper Joe Hart aside, Rooney was the only realistic option to assume the captain's armband from Steven Gerrard, who retired from international duty after England's first-round exit from the World Cup. Rooney was also recently handed the United captain's armband by new manager Louis van Gaal.

In other soccer news: ■ Despite a deadly Ebola outbreak in a fifth country, the Confederation of African Football said Thursday that qualifiers for the continent's top tournament will go ahead as planned next month, sweeping aside protests from a number of fearful teams.

CAF's decision that there would be no more venue changes for the Cameroon and Republic of Congo squads to travel to countries where people have

died from the virus, and compels Ivory Coast — with big names like Manchester City's Yaya Toure — to host players and officials from Ebola-affected Sierra Leone.

## NHL says expansion just in discussion

The NHL insists expansion is not imminent.

"Nothing has happened to change the status quo," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said in a telephone interview Wednesday with The Associated Press. "There continues to be interest from some markets, and we continue to be interested in discussing the possibilities, but there is no plan moving forward in terms of expansion."

The NHL has not expanded since the 2000-01 season when Minnesota Wild and Columbus Blue Jackets became the 29th and 30th franchises in the league. After last year's realignment, the Eastern Conference has 16 teams and there are 14 in the Western Conference.

Seattle, Toronto, Quebec City, Las Vegas and Kansas City have been mentioned as markets that might land a new team.



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## THE BEST SATURDAYS

By **RUSTY MILLER**  
The Associated Press

Everybody's talking about them. Yet no coach dares mention them for fear of "looking ahead." They're the biggest games of the fast-approaching season. Alabama's Nick Saban, Florida State's Jimbo Fisher and Ohio State's Urban Meyer — among many others — have been prodded about their team's earth-shaking showdowns, against the likes of Auburn, Notre Dame and Michigan State. And each time they've batted aside the question like Anthony Davis flicking a fly from his unibrow. Not constrained by looking past opponents, here's a gander at a college fan's best days of the year:

### August 30

Yeah, that's right, the very first Saturday of the season is a banquet. Tucked in among Youngstown State-Illinois and UC Davis-Stanford are four games that might just impact the playoffs four months later.

**Pick of the litter:** Oklahoma State vs. defending national champion Florida State, at AT&T Stadium in the heart of Texas. Cowboys fans will flood the place in a deluge of orange, all wanting their Pokes to give 2013 Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston his comeuppance.

**Best of the rest:** LSU vs. Wisconsin in Houston; Clemson at Georgia; Alabama vs. West Virginia in Atlanta.

### Sept. 6

The Playoff Era means very few more wasted days of Top-5 teams drilling weather-vane schools. Welcome to the new world of major-college scheduling.

**Pick of the litter:** Michigan State at Oregon. If you don't like the color green, you might want to tune to a True Detective repeat.

**Best of the rest:** Michigan at Notre Dame, Virginia Tech at Ohio State, Southern California at Stanford.

### Sept. 13

That's right, the season's only three weeks old and we've already locked up half the sport's best weekends.

**Pick of the litter:** The Head Ballocoach might just have his best team ever at South Carolina. Steve Spurrier's Gamecocks get an early test at home against Georgia, which also has visions of bigger things. The game will revolve around which running back is the most productive: the Bulldogs' Todd Gurley or South Carolina's Mike Davis.

**Best of the rest:** UCLA travels to a supposed neutral site in the Lone Star State to take on Texas in Charlie Strong's first bigtime matchup as Longhorns head coach. Also: Tennessee at Oklahoma.



Mariota

### Oct. 11

The best games feature teams fighting for early superiority in the Pac-12 and Big 12.

**Pick of the litter:** Oklahoma vs. Texas in the Cotton Bowl, with Sooners coach Bob Stoops itching to shove aside a few bad memories in the Red River Rivalry. Also, Oregon at UCLA, a battle between Heisman-contending QBs Marcus Mariota of the Ducks and Brett Hundley for the Bruins.

**Best of the rest:** Georgia at Missouri, Louisville at Clemson, LSU at Florida.

### Nov. 8

The math might not sound right, but the best of the Big Ten's 14 teams battle in this marquee game.

**Pick of the litter:** Michigan State beat No. 2-ranked Ohio State to squelch the Buckeyes' school-record 24-game winning streak last year in the conference title game. Even without quarterback Braxton Miller, the Buckeyes have been waiting for redemption ever since. Keep an eye on Spartans' do-everything back, Jeremy Langford.

**Best of the rest:** Baylor, which won behind QB Bryce Petty in Waco last year, takes its hurry-up style to Norman, Okla., to battle the Sooners. The third-best game of the day, Alabama at LSU, could end up being the most memorable of the season. There's also Iowa at Minnesota, not so much because it's a great matchup but because to the winner goes the spoils: a bronze pig named Floyd of Rosedale. Honest.

### Nov. 29

Rivalry week isn't just a clever marketing slogan.

**Pick of the litter:** They call it the Iron Bowl because the teams feel as if they've been hit with a bag of hammers after these old acquaintances get together. Auburn QB Nick Marshall and Alabama TB T.J. Yeldon figure to get all the attention, but it'll be the rock-hard defenses which will likely decide this one, as always.

**Best of the rest:** Notre Dame at Southern Cal, Michigan at Ohio State, South Carolina at Clemson, North Carolina State at North Carolina, Baylor at Texas Tech, Washington at Washington State and Oregon at Oregon State. The night before the Arizona State at Arizona.

Of course, the new four-team playoffs trump all of the above as we enjoy the first college football tournament atmosphere.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Despite quarterback Jeremy Johnson being named Auburn's starter for the Tigers' opener against Arkansas, expect to see plenty of Nick Marshall, above, in the game. Last season, Marshall was 7-for-8 for 118 yards and a touchdown in Auburn's 35-17 win over the Razorbacks. He also rushed nine times for 59 yards.

## Game: Georgia State, Abilene Christian make most of spotlight

### FROM BACK PAGE

But it all started rather humbly Wednesday night in Atlanta.

At a small parking lot across the street from the Georgia Dome, a few dozen students tailgated. There was a football being chucked around. A game of cornhole being hotly contested. Most were wearing Georgia State's royal blue somewhere on their bodies.

### Trent Miles

Second-year Georgia State head coach

A few thousand fans dotted the lower tier of the dome at kickoff, some wearing Abilene Christian purple. The Wildcats moved up a division to FCS last year and fared OK, going 6-5.

The first touchdown by an FBS team for the 2014 season was a 34-yard pass by Nick Arbuckle to Joel Ruiz, who did a mini-somersault into the end zone to give Georgia State a 7-3 lead.

Wil Lutz lined through a 26-yard field

goal with 4 seconds left and Georgia State snapped its 16-game losing streak.

"We have a one-game winning streak now," second-year coach Trent Miles said.

Still, it's never too early to start impressing the selection committee. No. 12 Georgia and No. 16 Clemson have that opportunity the first week of the season in nearby Athens.

In a game that looks a bit like the Iowa caucuses during a presidential election year, two powerhouse teams about 80 miles apart will try to establish themselves as championship contenders before the calendar flips to September.

Both 13th-ranked LSU and No. 14 Wisconsin expect to play two quarterbacks in their showdown in Houston.

The Badgers appear to have settled on dual-threat junior Tanner McEvoy as the starter, though coach Gary Andersen doesn't officially name one. Andersen has said both McEvoy and last year's starter, Joel Stave, will be ready no matter what.

Tigers coach Les Miles says he will use both sophomore Anthony Jennings and freshman Brandon Harris.



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Georgia State linebacker Joseph Peterson runs back an interception of a pass by Abilene Christian quarterback Parker McKenzie (14), during the fourth quarter of Wednesday's season-opening NCAA college football game in Atlanta.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Proving their worth

Many ACC teams set to open with unproven QBs

By JOEDY MCCREARY  
The Associated Press

There's plenty of buzz around the Atlantic Coast Conference with the addition of a new team, the latest Heisman Trophy winner and the reigning national champion.

Top-ranked Florida State's run to the national title and the arrival of fast-rising Louisville have raised the ACC's national profile.

But the strength of the league as a whole this season could depend on the arms of numerous unproven commodities at quarterback — besides Jameis Winston, the Seminoles' Heisman winner, of course.

At least 10 schools will debut new starting QBs this week, including three transfers and a pair of true freshmen.

Those concerns might be unfounded, new Clemson starter Cole Stoudt said.

"According to some of the guys, we're not going to get a first down," said Stoudt, who is replacing three-year starter Tajh Boyd.

"I think people are going to be shocked by what we're going to do," he added. "People are underestimating what we have, looking at all the negatives instead of the positives we have."

The numbers perhaps tell a different story: According to STATS, only nine current ACC quarterbacks have made at least one career start — and three of them made those starts at other schools.

Only one ACC QB — Duke's Anthony Boone — ever started a game for his current school be-



BOB LEVERONE/AP

**Duke's Anthony Boone says the ACC "absolutely" needs another quarterback to step up and challenge Florida State's Jameis Winston, and as the only ACC quarterback to start a game for his current school before last season. Naturally, he hopes to be the one to do it.**

fore last season.

The league's only other returning full-time starter is Terrell Hunt of Syracuse. North Carolina is still deciding between Marquise Williams — who started six games last season due to injuries to regular starter Bryn Renner — and redshirt freshman Mitch Trubisky.

David Watford started all 12 games of Virginia's 2-10 finish last year. But backup Greyson Lambert, a redshirt sophomore, beat Watford for the starting job with all of 75 college passes on his resume.

Plenty of other first-time starters also will get their chance this weekend.

Two transfers from Florida — Jacoby Brissett at North Carolina State and Tyler Murphy at Boston College — are pegged to start their new teams' openers along with ex-Texas Tech backup Michael Brewer, who's now at

Virginia Tech.

Brissett, who made four total starts for the Gators in 2011 and '12, promised to "just make sure I don't mess up the first snap."

At Miami, true freshman Brad Kaaya beat out another transfer — Jake Heaps, formerly of BYU and Kansas. And John Wolford will become the first true freshman QB since 1974 to start a Wake Forest opener.

"He is our best quarterback, so I can't worry about whether he's a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior," new Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "In a perfect world, you'd always love to have the guy be in the system for one or two years before he plays. But we're going to put the guys out there that give us the best chance to win. And he clearly won the job."

Now, it's time for all those new quarterbacks to show they can win games.



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

**Clemson quarterback Cole Stoudt doesn't expect the Tigers to regress in his first season under center as the Tigers' signal-caller. "According to some of the guys, we're not going to get a first down," said Stoudt, who has the tough job of replacing three-year starter Tajh Boyd. "I think people are going to be shocked by what we're going to do."**

## Former marquee recruits ready to make impact

By DAVID BRANDT  
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Robert Nkemdiche was the consensus No. 1 recruit in the country in 2013, and the defensive lineman arrived at Mississippi with lofty aspirations of dominating the Southeastern Conference.

Then, as the transition to high-level college football often does to young players, Nkemdiche was humbled. He struggled to learn a new position while also trying to get a handle on the playbook. Then came a hamstring injury.

For many highly recruited SEC players, early hype can lead to unrealistic expectations. Now, Nkemdiche is part of group of young but experienced players around the league hoping to have breakout seasons.

While Nkemdiche had a productive season with 34 tackles, including eight for a loss, the 6-foot-4, 280-pound sophomore said in retrospect, he often tried too hard.

"That's where I was mixed up," Nkemdiche said. "I felt like I had to do everything."

Alabama running back Derrick Henry is another former marquee recruit hoping



VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

**Alabama running back Derrick Henry is looking for a breakout season after fighting just to get on the field as a freshman last year.**

to make an impact.

He has played behind some terrific players at Alabama and he'll fight for carries in a crowded backfield this year with T.J. Yeldon and Kenyan Drake — established veterans who have played in a lot of big games for the Tide.

But Henry's talent is getting harder to ignore.

The 6-foot-3, 241-pound five-star recruit arrived at Alabama after breaking the career high school rushing record. And when he did get on the field during his freshman season, he averaged more than 10 yards per carry and caught a 61-yard touchdown pass in the Sugar Bowl.

"Last year humbled me a lot," Henry said. "It gave me the fuel to go into this season, this fall camp, working hard. I just tune it out (the hype) ... just come here and go to work."

Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze said managing expectations for highly recruited freshmen is an ongoing battle.

"This circus around recruiting now and the social media and everything that builds these kids up to be something so phenomenal ...," Freeze said. "They are good play-

ers, but when they get to the real world of this level of football, there are also a lot of good players here."

Here are other SEC players who could have breakout seasons:

■ Shaq Roland, junior WR, South Carolina: Roland was South Carolina's Mr. Football in 2011. He's looking to improve on his career totals of 30 catches for 535 yards and six touchdowns, although his yards-per-catch average of 18.2 yards a game last fall led South Carolina. Now he's the unquestioned leader of the receiving corps.

■ Reuben Foster, sophomore LB, Alabama: Foster is battling with junior Reggie Ragland — another highly-rated recruit — for a starting linebacker job. Foster had just nine tackles in 12 games last season after being one of the nation's most sought-after linebacker prospects.

■ Montravius Adams, sophomore DL, Auburn: A key sub at defensive tackle last season, Adams opens as a backup to Angelo Blackson. The 6-foot-4, 306-pounder has also worked some at defensive end where the Tigers have less depth. He had 20 tackles last season and figures to play an important role on the line.

## SPORTS



## Bronx bombers

Yanks tag Price for nine straight hits, top Tigers | **MLB, Page 27**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



RALPH RUSSO/AP

The Georgia State marching band plays before the school's football team opens its season against Abilene Christian on Wednesday at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The first season that major college football's champion will be decided by a playoff began Wednesday night between teams that won't be contending for the title.

# Low-key opening game sets stage for exciting season

The Associated Press

ATLANTA

**W**elcome back, college football! The season began Wednesday night with a game that won't have any impact on the national championship race: Georgia State, starting its first year as a full-fledged FBS member, took down Division I newcomer Abilene Christian 38-37 in a wild game at the Georgia Dome.

It was the first of three games in four days at the

stadium in downtown Atlanta, the others having a bit more curb appeal. No. 18 Mississippi faced Boise State last night, then No. 2 Alabama meets West Virginia on Saturday.

After the low-key opener, there are plenty of games spread over the rest of the holiday weekend, many of which could have an impact down the road on the new four-team playoff.

No. 1 Florida State begins defense of its national title in Texas against Oklahoma State at the home of the Dal-

las Cowboys. By the time Labor Day night rolls around and Miami welcomes Louisville to the Atlantic Coast Conference, every ranked team will have played.

There will be a few big games: No. 16 Clemson is at No. 12 Georgia and No. 13 LSU and No. 14 Wisconsin meet in Houston on Saturday.

And there will be plenty of mismatches: No. 8 Michigan State against Jacksonville State; and No. 3 Oregon vs. South Dakota, to name a few.

**SEE GAME ON PAGE 30**

## Games to watch this weekend:



Ohio State at Navy  
AFN-Sports  
6 p.m. Sat. CET  
1 a.m. Sun. JKT



Clemson at Georgia  
AFN-Sports  
11:30 p.m. Sat. CET  
6:30 a.m. Sun. JKT



Florida State vs Oklahoma State  
AFN-Atlantic  
2 a.m. Sun. CET  
9 a.m. Sun. JKT



Sharapova rallies, survives 2nd round in 3 sets

**U.S. Open, Page 25**

Frequent flags have defenders wary of contact

**NFL, Page 28**